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TO • MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009 metronews.ca

Canadians concerned for kin in Greece

WILDFIRE Anxious Greek-Canadians are burning Trans-Atlantic phone lines trying to get word of loved ones as angry flames from a raging wildfire lick at the northern suburbs of Athens.

"The phones have been ringing off the hook," said Jim Karygiannis, MP for Scarborough-Agincourt, who is in Greece on business.

Jim Karygiannis

Karygiannis, whose parents live just two kilometres from the fire lines and were on evacuation alert, could see the fire when he landed in Athens.

"There's a haze right over the Athenean sky. You can see the fires in the distance," he said in a phone interview from Athens. "People have been told to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. There's much concern."

The president of the Greek Community of Toronto, who is travelling through Greece and Cyprus over the next few days, also had calls pouring in from worried Canadians.

"They want to know what is happening, how serious it is ... they are concerned about their loved ones," said Costas Menegakis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 14

Canada pg 12

Fugitive murder suspect found dead in B.C.

Workology pg 25

Chasing nature's wildest displays

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Rogers Cup **Queen of the court**

MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Russian Elena Dementieva celebrates her Rogers Cup championship victory yesterday over compatriot Maria Sharapova at the Rexall Centre at York University. Dementieva defeated Sharapova 6-4, 6-3. More coverage, page 24.

Down under

Plans proceeding for tunnel to island airport

The Toronto Port Authority is moving ahead with plans to build a pedestrian tunnel under the lake to the island airport.

Hoping to tap into government stimulus cash it has requested for the $38-million project, the Port Authority is issuing a formal request for proposals today to conduct an environmental assessment, the first step to any major construction project. Ottawa has not indicated whether it would approve the request, but it does meet the rules for federal infrastructure funding, said Port Authority chair Mark McQueen.

"We do not have a formal approval, but you certainly have to have your ducks lined up, given the times of March 2011 (for completion)," he said, referring to the date by which projects funded by the federal infrastructure plan must be finished.

But any plan to build an underground passageway is sure to draw the ire of Mayor David Miller, who campaigned in 2003 to kill a proposed bridge, arguing the facility should be kept as a sleepy commuter airport.

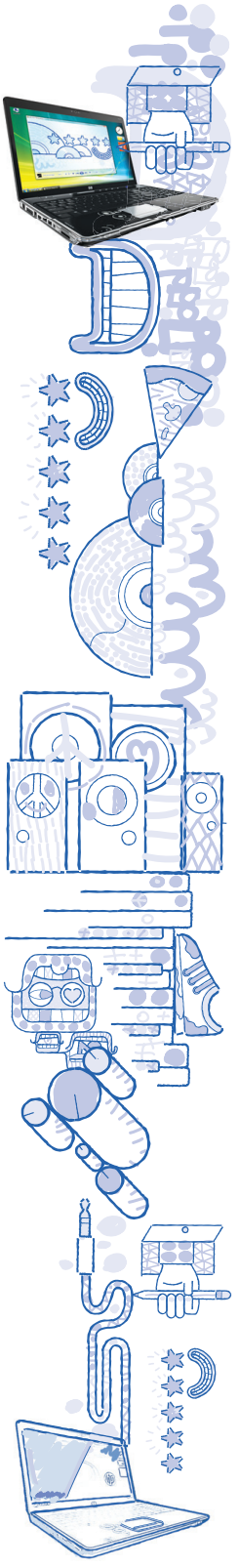
Miller is on vacation, but earlier this month he credited former mayor and alderman Sam McBride for helping to kill such a tunnel in the 1930s.

Responses by potential contractors are due within three weeks, and the environmental assessment could take about four months. Engineers estimate a tunnel could be built in a year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Moving sidewalks

- The tunnel would be eight metres wide, four metres high and outfitted with moving sidewalks for passengers of upstart Porter Airlines, which began flying from the airport in 2006.



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Power returns to downtown
Power was restored yesterday to a large swath of the downtown core that was left in the dark after an underground feeder failed Saturday. At the height of the failure, about 6,000 customers were left without power. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Police search for Danforth arsonist

Police are on the hunt for an arsonist after bags of yard waste were deliberately set on fire, spreading flames to a nearby garage and destroying two vehicles near Danforth and Donlands avenues. Some of the bags had been placed under cars. Damage was estimated at about $55,000. Police said they are investigating the possibility the fires were set by a suspected arsonist who lives in the area.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

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Tomorrow's Metro

National Report
Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Hundreds of Nova Scotians ignore police warnings in order to witness swells brought on by hurricane Bill at **metronews.ca/canada**

Immigration Guidy Mamann on how refusal for permanent residence can create problems at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Aug. 21: Lotto Super 7: 5, 18, 22, 28, 32, 34 & 40 Bonus 42
Saturday, Aug. 22
Lotto 6/49: 15, 19, 23, 38, 43 & 49. Bonus 33
Sunday, Aug. 23
Ontario Pick 3: 6 7 6; **Ontario Pick 4** : 7 9 4 5
Encore: 3377440;
Daily Keno: 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 19, 20, 26, 29, 34, 42, 45, 48, 51, 54, 55, 61, 67 and 68.
These results are not official.

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Premier tours tornado sites

Premier Dalton McGuinty was in Durham yesterday, viewing first-hand the devastation wrought by the tornado that whipped through the small town, killing a young boy Thursday.

McGuinty has met with the family of Owen McPherson, the 11-year-old boy killed by debris as a twister pummelled a conservation area north of the town. He said the deadly storm was a devastating and tragic event, but added that everyone affected will pull through its aftermath together.

McGuinty said there are programs in place that allow affected residents to receive aid from the government to help them recover.

The premier was also in Vaughan over the weekend to take in the destruction left by the tornados Thursday.

Durham and Vaughan were the hardest hit by the string of twisters that barrelled across the province, with both communities declaring states of emergency.

When in Vaughan, McGuinty said he was surprised at the power of the storm, which "tossed cars around like toys."

Environment Canada also confirmed tornado touchdowns in Newmarket and Milton.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Neglected dog on way to recovery

ANIMALS Medical tests conducted on Phoenix, a severely neglected male chow that was found abandoned last Sunday, have come back showing he has treatable cancer.

There was overwhelming outrage after Phoenix, as he's been named by cruelty investigator Debby Houghton, was found abandoned in the backyard of a home near Rundle Road and Bloor Street in Clarington, east of Oshawa. The blond animal was emaciated when he was found and its face and legs were covered in blood from open sores; its nails were severely overgrown.

There were fears the four- to five-year-old chow would die, but doctors think he will respond well to medical treatment.

The Humane Society of Durham is accepting donations for his medical bills.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Adoption

- Debby Houghton has received a multitude of adoption requests, but until Phoenix is healthier, those requests have been put on hold.

Big turnout **Chinatown Festival**

KEITH BEATY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Ze Chen works a barbecue over the weekend at the Chinatown Festival. Presented by the Toronto Chinatown Business Improvement Area, the event attracted more than 100,000 people with its colourful display of multicultural entertainment, food, street market and community celebrations.

Toronto man missing after carjacking

CRIME The search is on for a 22-year-old man who was forced off the road and then kidnapped by armed gunmen while he was driving in Scarborough Saturday.

Toronto police detectives say Furqan Muhammad-Haroon, 22, of Toronto, was driving his van in the Midwest Road and Midland Avenue area, near Ellesmere Road, around 3:30 p.m. Saturday, when three men, one armed with a gun, forced him off the road.

Furqan Muhammad-Haroon

Shortly after the incident, police found the vehicle.

Muhammad-Haroon is still missing.

He is described as brown, 5-foot-10, 181 pounds with black eyes, short black wavy hair and a beard with no moustache. He wears eye glasses. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

TEACHERS Ontario's elementary teachers don't want to share their classrooms with early childhood educators when the province moves to full-day kindergarten in the future. The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario voted last week to begin a campaign "to keep teachers in kindergarten classrooms and protect the integrity of the teaching profession."
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For WestJet flights: †Book by August 25, 2009 (11:59 p.m. MT) for travel between November 1, 2009 and January 31, 2010. Blackout dates between December 17, 2009 and January 4, 2010. Taxes, fees and surcharges are extra where applicable. Seats at these fares are limited and may not be available on all flights. New bookings only. 100% non-refundable. Offer combinable with other fares. Flights may not operate on certain days. All fares shown are one way. See westjet.com for details.

Not just a fashion crime

Hamilton police are searching for a man wanted for more than just fashion crimes. Last week, two Hamilton banks were robbed by a man wearing a woman's blouse and a long brown wig. THE CANADIAN PRESS

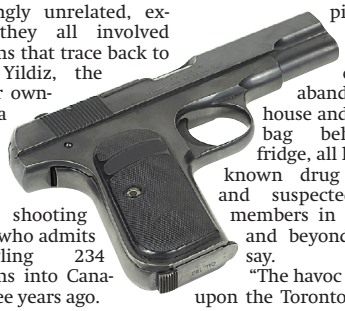
Gun trail traced back to Chicago

The trail of guns led from Chicago to Guelph where a year ago a coked-up man went berserk and fired shots into his neighbour's apartment and car.

Then it continued to Ottawa where, just before last Christmas, a 26-year-old man was fatally shot after answering a knock on an apartment door.

A month later, in Vaughan near Weston and Rutherford Roads, three residents were held hostage at gunpoint during a home invasion. Two men pleaded guilty to the crime last month.

These incidents are seemingly unrelated, except they all involved firearms that trace back to Ugur Yildiz, the former owner of a Chicago gun shop and shooting range who admits smuggling 234 firearms into Canada three years ago.



Police have recovered 40 so far. They've been discovered in a Toronto cab, a pile of leaves, a garbage can, an abandoned house and a duffle bag behind a fridge, all linked to known drug dealers and suspected gang members in the GTA and beyond, police say.

"The havoc wreaked upon the Toronto area by Yildiz's firearms deal is not even close to being over — approximately 200 firearms are still unaccounted for, last known to be in Canada," reads the sentencing memorandum filed in United States District Court in the Northern District of Illinois, eastern division.

Yildiz, a 39-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen from Turkey, pleaded guilty in March under the Arms Export Control Act.

His sentencing hearing resumed Friday in a Chicago courtroom where U.S. prosecutors are looking to double the maximum sentence from five years to 10. The judge is to pass sentence Sept. 18.

At one time Canadian authorities were suggesting they might extradite Yildiz to stand trial here and officials this week refused to say whether that was still being considered.

The maximum sentence for trafficking and importing firearms in Canada is 10 years imprisonment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DriveTest talks still stranded in neutral

LICENSES With Ontario's driving examiners on strike, the province is granting automatic extensions for drivers' licences that normally require a test before they are renewed.

DriveTest Centres across Ontario have been closed since Friday, when members of United Steelworkers Local 9511 walked off the job after failing to reach an agreement with their employer, Serco DES Inc.

"We reached an impasse," said Serco representative Paul Dalglish, who added he was not aware of any plans to resume bargaining.

Job security is a key issue in the talks, which have been underway since mid-February.

The union local represents more than 550 members in Ontario.

There are 55 full-time DriveTest locations across the province and 38 driver examination centres that open periodically in smaller communities.

$114M

Serco has provided driver exams since 2003, when the transportation ministry went ahead and privatized the service in a 10-year, $114 million deal.

While they are closed, licences for commercial and novice drivers, and motorists 80 years of age and older will be extended for the duration of the strike

Regular licences may be renewed at one of the more than 270 driver and vehicle licence issuing offices.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Struck by lightning **Kyus Caines, 5, remembered**

IAN WILLMS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family and friends of Kyus Caines, 5, release commemorative balloons, Saturday, on the spot where Caines was stuck by lightning. Caines passed away on Friday. Kyus and his 26-year-old mother, Dulcineia Caines, and a three-year-old playmate were struck in a field on Aug. 12.

Motorbike collision sends 2 to hospital

FIRE Two people are clinging to life in hospital after their motorbike was struck by an SUV and caught fire on a dark Brampton street early yesterday.

It erupted in flames after it was struck by an SUV turning into a driveway.

Helmets

- Witnesses said the couple wasn't wearing helmets and that the motorbike had no lights.

The motorbike driver, a 28-year-old Brampton man, remains in critical condition and has been placed in a medically induced coma at Sunnybrook hospital in Toronto.

His passenger, a 21-year-old woman, had no vital signs when neighbours rushed to the fire-scarred driveway, near Vodden and Kennedy roads. She is in critical condition in a Hamilton hospital.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New trucks meet standards: Critic

OSL The recent arrival of monster trucks on Ontario highways shouldn't be cause for panic, says a former critic of the idea.

The first Long Combination Vehicles (LCVs) — semis tractors drawing two full-size trailers — began operating in Ontario two weeks ago, under a pilot program with standards so stringent the head of the Ontario Safety League (OSL) no longer thinks drivers should be worried. The OSL said they were impressed with the provincial Ministry of Transportation in the face of trucking industry opposition to what he calls the toughest standards in North America.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

STAFFORD The father of slain Woodstock, Ont., girl Tori Stafford is more than halfway to Thunder Bay on his bike journey to raise funds for Child Find Ontario. Rodney Stafford is travelling more than 3,000 kilometres to Edmonton, where he plans to release one purple balloon on a mountain his little girl once visited. Stafford is now averaging about 70 kilometres per day as he nears Thunder Bay. At this rate, Stafford says he hopes to reach Edmonton by mid-September where he will be met by his sister. Stafford's eight-year-old daughter Victoria disappeared in April after returning home from school. Two Woodstock residents have been charged with her murder. Michael Rafferty, 28, and Terri-Lynne McClintic, 19, face first-degree murder charges in connection with the death of the eight-year-old. Rafferty has said he plans to plead not guilty at trial. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Columnist runs for Tories

Newspaper columnist Sue-Ann Levy, left, has been nominated as the Progressive Conservative candidate for next month's provincial byelection in Toronto's St. Paul's riding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3-1-1 service set to start ringing

HOTLINE Toronto's long-promised, oft-delayed 3-1-1 municipal information hotline should finally start ringing next month.

The 3-1-1 service, used by residents of many big cities, including New York and Chicago, was first touted by Mayor David Miller in the 2003 election campaign and again in the 2006 race.

But only now is the service finally getting hooked up, nearly six years after it was first promised.

With one simple phone number, residents should be able to report problems to city hall, from potholes to missed garbage pickup. The line is meant to help callers avoid the frustration of being transferred from department to department. The delayed rollout can be blamed on initial foot-dragging by bureaucrats and politicians, said Coun. Peter Milczyn.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Soccer event gets superbad

Actor Michael Cera joins other celebrities for charity sports event

Bets were placed, challenges accepted and spirits were high as celebrities laced up alongside regular-joe athletes to raise money for a youth centre in northern Uganda.

Big names like actor Michael Cera and Weezer lead singer Rivers Cuomo hit the pitch with sports enthusiasts from across the Greater Toronto Area at the Athletes for Africa soccer tournament, an intimate event that had fans and players rubbing shoulders in the Saturday sun at Cherry Beach.

"I think it's an easy thing for me to do to help people out," said Cera, of Juno and Superbad fame.

Having donned blinding red short shorts, Cera said he was playing his first game in more than 10 years.

"I wanted to come because I'm afraid of soccer and I wanted to face my fear," Cera deadpanned.

ANDREW WILLIAMSON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Actor Michael Cera, of Superbad and Juno fame, joined other celebrities Saturday at Cherry Beach for a day of soccer to benefit impoverished African children.

After holding his own for most of the game, the young actor said his biggest achievement was successfully passing the ball.

"I really expected to lose. That's what I'm used to," he said after his team tied a game.

On hand...

- Metro soccer columnist Ben Rycroft also participated in Saturday's event.

Other celebrities, however, weren't as modest.

"I'm trying to raise money and also trying to score. Those are my two goals," said a sweaty Murray Foster from folk-rock group Great Big Sea.

Foster played a few games, managing to stop two goals, before heading to the Molson Amphitheatre for a performance Saturday evening.

"I'm exhausted. The show will be awful," said Foster, grinning widely.

The first event of its kind, the tournament had already raised more than $30,000 through online team pledges before the games began.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friend looks back on slain homeless man

DEATH Raymond May, a 65-year-old former crack addict, sits on a bench in Moss Park overwhelmed with grief. The bench has special meaning for him and he touches it absentmindedly as he speaks.

It was on this very same bench on the morning of Aug. 31, 2005, that his friend Paul Croutch was killed — beaten to death by three intoxicated soldiers from a nearby armoury.

May won't hang out in the park at night anymore. It's too dangerous. But on a hot summer afternoon he doesn't mind walking over to the park to reminisce about his friend. As a soft breeze rustles through the leaves of a nearby tree, May's voice quivers with emotion as he remembers his friend and his tragic death.

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raymond May sits on the Moss Park bench where former friend Paul Croutch was beaten to death by a group of intoxicated soldiers from a Toronto armoury. May plans to talk tomorrow about the friend he lost during The Day of the Homeless.

"I felt pretty upset when I found out," said May. "It was the morning and I saw all the police cars over there. I didn't think that it might have been Paul. When one of the persons in the building I lived in told me about it, I was really upset. I was so angry for what they did.

"It was this bench right here where he was sleeping," he said for emphasis. "It's a shame, you know. The guy was so quiet. He never harmed anybody. He always kept to himself."

May will be front and centre tomorrow at an 11 a.m. memorial service — The Day of the Homeless — in honour of Croutch and the many other homeless who have lived and died on Toronto streets. The service will be held in front of the Good Neighbours' Club, where a plaque in Croutch's honour will be unveiled.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Boston test pilots 'Citizen' application

URBAN STUDIES Could this be the next "killer app," the first to fulfil technology's promise as a democratizing tool for citizens who have long felt disconnected?

That's what the City of Boston is counting on with its new iPhone application, "Citizens Connect." Beantown residents who own one of Apple's smartphones will soon be able to download the application for free, Citizens Connect application, which will enable them to snap and forward pictures of any problem in the city — such as a downed tree, broken water main or snow-covered sidewalk.

The picture gets sent directly to city hall, the iPhone's internal GPS mapping system helps verify the exact location, a work order is created by the appropriate department and the user receives a tracking number to follow the progress until the problem is fixed.

Testing has just begun and the man who came up with the idea — a Canadian, of course — is hopeful the application will be live in three weeks when users will be able to download it directly from Apple's App Store.

"The vision is what we call 'citizen sourcing.'" says Nigel Jacob, a technology adviser for the City of Boston. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Teen seriously injured after being tossed from moving car

A teenage girl riding on the trunk of a car yesterday in a Montreal suburb suffered multiple broken bones after being tossed from the moving vehicle. The 18-year-old driver has been charged with dangerous driving and driving under the influence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

2010 designer dies suddenly

Vancouver's Olympic Organizing Committee is mourning the sudden death of its design director. Leo Obstbaum, 40, passed away at home on Thursday night. Organizing committee CEO John Furlong said Obstbaum was involved in the design of the mascots, the torches and the Olympic and Paralympic medals, which have yet to be unveiled.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bill's bark worse than bite

Hurricane wreaks less havoc than expected in Nova Scotia

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
Metro Canada

Bill blew through Nova Scotia yesterday, but was more of a bust than a blast, slowing to a Category 1 hurricane by the time it brushed by the province.

Between 50 and 60 millimetres of rain fell over Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), with winds of up to 87 kilometres per hour also whistling through this part of the province, according to the program supervisor for the Canadian Hurricane Centre.

"Half of the rain with the storm evaporated, which was a godsend," Peter Bowyer said late yesterday.

Late last week, Bowyer's team was predicting Bill had the potential to become a "strong Category 2, marginal Category 3" storm, bringing to Nova Scotia gusts of at least 120 kilometres per hour, along with more than 100 millimetres of rain within 12 hours.

But Bowyer said Bill was still a "solid Category 1" hurricane yesterday, prompting tropical storm warnings for the province's Atlantic coast and at one point a hurricane watch for Cape Breton.

RYAN TEPLIN/METRO CANADA

Two women shield themselves from the driving rain after checking out the waves at Conrad Beach in Lawrencetown, N.S., yesterday. Hurricane Bill brought rain and wind to Nova Scotia but left without causing any significant damage.

"We were prepared for a lot worse. It didn't feel like a hurricane at all."
Patrick Aucoin, resident

He said the rainfall that rocked Nova Scotia yesterday, combined with whipping winds and dangerous waves, created "quite a fury out there."

But Patrick Aucoin, who walked along the Halifax waterfront during the storm, called hurricane Bill "disappointing."

"We were prepared for a lot worse," Aucoin said. "It didn't feel like a hurricane at all."

Waves, however, reached heights of more than 10 metres on some parts of the coast, Bowyer said, adding the largest recorded waves offshore were close to 26 metres high. "Anyone who was crazy enough to be out there saw a spectacular show."

Besides power outages throughout HRM and debris blocking the road leading to Peggy's Cove, there "has been very little physical damage," said Barry Manuel, co-ordinator for the municipality's Emergency Management Office.

WITH FILES FROM PAUL MCLEOD/ METRO CANADA

Institute pushes virtues of the 'Canadian diet'

NUTRITION Move over, Mediterranean diet. The Canucks are coming for you.

Many health-conscious foodies have been following the Mediterranean diet for years. And why not? There's plenty of research to suggest sun-soaked fruits, vegetables, olive oil and a bit of red wine are a good way to keep a heart healthy.

But a recent report suggests that fresh, nutritious foods grown in northern climes could also be good for you — and help the struggling agriculture sector to boot.

The homegrown concept is being raised by the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute that studies ways to bring together agriculture and health.

David McInnes, the institute's president, said the country is bulging with healthy, delicious options for a "Canadian diet."

The country's lakes and oceans teem with healthy fish. Flax, canola and pulses sprout across the Prairies. We also have lots of opportunity to buy low-fat meat and there's a strong dairy industry, McInnes pointed out.

A Canadian diet could also boast food grown with fewer pesticides — colder climates mean fewer pests — as well as a strong record of food safety, he suggested.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PHOTOS.COM

Consumption of homegrown produce like blueberries can boost both health and agriculture, a recent report says.

News in brief

ARCTIC Climate change is already having a dramatic effect on plants in the High Arctic, turning the once-rocky tundra a deep shade of green and creating what could be another mechanism speeding up global warming. A University of British Columbia researcher says the new, shrubbier tundra could speed up global warming because that vegetation is darker and absorbs more solar energy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AN OPEN LETTER FROM MICHAEL H. McCAIN,
PRESIDENT & CEO, MAPLE LEAF FOODS INC.

MAPLE LEAF FOODS

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Michael H. McCain
President and CEO

Major pot bust in small Quebec town

A drug bust in Charlevoix, Que., netted police a regional record haul of marijuana and dope paraphernalia. Quebec provincial police discovered 3,100 marijuana plants on Saturday in a wooded area in St-Hilarion, a town some 150 kilometres northeast of Quebec City. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drop in kids scares Atlantic schools

Universities try to bump application numbers

With Atlantic provinces looking at a plunge in the number of high school graduates in the next decade, universities in the region are casting a wider recruitment net and becoming more competitive as they fight to attract students from a dwindling pool of applications.

After ten years of growth across the country, fewer students are enrolling in undergraduate programs, according to information released by Statistics Canada in July.

The Atlantic region is being hit the hardest. The number of full-time students declined in all four Atlantic provinces in 2007-2008 — from less than one per cent in New Brunswick to more than four per cent in Prince Edward Island.

An aging population means this trend may continue as fewer young people are going through the school system in Atlantic Canada.

30 The Nova Scotia Department of Education estimates there will be a 30 per cent drop in high school graduates over the next 10 years.

The Nova Scotia Department of Education estimates there will be a 30 per cent drop in high school graduates in the next 10 years. In New Brunswick, the Department of Education places this figure closer to 20 per cent.

"It's certainly something we're concerned about ... it means we will have to recruit perhaps a little more vigorously outside of the region," said Gloria Jollymore, vice-president of advancement at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B.

Universities are preparing for the drop in Atlantic region applicants by evolving their communication strategies.

Schools are increasing their out-of-province recruitment efforts and expanding their presence on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook.

In June, Acadia's Twitter account, Acadia4U, announced they sent out "Good luck on exams" cards and a bag of tea to potential students.

Since 2001, tuition fees in Nova Scotia have been frozen. And earlier this month, the Newfoundland and Labrador government eliminated interest on provincial student loans — the first province in the country to do so — in a move that could make it a more attractive place to study.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Operation Nanook **Rangers in Nunavut**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of the Canadian Rangers take part in an exercise during Operation Nanook in Iqaluit, Nunavut, yesterday. Operation Nanook is an inter-governmental operation that takes place in Canada's Arctic to show sovereignty over its northern territory.

Labs examine virus in other animals

Flu Outbreak

RESEARCH With swine flu viruses now showing they can infect humans, pigs and turkeys, scientists will be looking closely for genetic evidence of whether the viruses change in potentially dangerous ways as they pass from one species to another.

Unfortunately, the first known case where the virus likely passed from people to pigs back to people won't provide any answers.

The head of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory has revealed his lab couldn't isolate viruses from respiratory specimens collected from two federal employees who became infected while investigating an outbreak of the novel H1N1 virus on an Alberta pig farm.

Though the two Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspectors tested positive for the pandemic flu virus, lab technicians would have to have found live viruses in their specimens to be able to compare them to those of viruses isolated from pigs on the farm and from other humans.

"We weren't able to isolate virus from what we got. So we haven't really sequenced anything," Dr. Frank Plummer said in an interview Friday.

Late this week officials in Chile announced they had found the virus in turkeys — a species known to be susceptible to influenza viruses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pair in B.C. might have West Nile

HEALTH Two people in British Columbia are being tested for West Nile virus, which has been detected in the province for the first time, the BC Centre for Disease Control said Saturday.

Epidemiologist Dr. Bonnie Henry said the two adults are from the same family in the Okanagan, near where a group of mosquitoes were found to have the virus.

Henry said test results on the two residents will be available today or tomorrow.

"If these people are confirmed to be true cases of West Nile virus, they will be the first ones in Canada this year," she said.

"We have expected this migration of the virus into B.C., likely from the south."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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G3 Wave 5-door SE model shown with CF5, D52 and PW8.††

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LOWER CASH PRICE	$13,238	$13,270**	$14,980**
AIR CONDITIONING	✔	X	X
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION	✔	X	X
POWER SUNROOF	✔	X	X
FOG LIGHTS	✔	X	X
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	✔	X	X
CRUISE CONTROL	✔	X	X
ON STAR◊	✔	X	X
POWERTRAIN WARRANTY	5-year/160,000 km	5-year/100,000 km	5-year/100,000 km

WITH More than $4,000◆ in additional features than Toyota or Honda

◆Value of additional standard features based on dealer pricing. Vehicle comparison is based on 2009 G3 Wave SE (2TX48 1SB + MXO +CF5), 2009 Yaris LE 5-Door (KT923M), and 2009 Fit DX (GE8729E). **Vehicle specification and purchase price according to the information available on the manufacturer's website at time of printing.

HWY: 5.9L/100KM – 48 MPG
CITY: 8.7L/100KM – 33 MPG△

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G5 GIVES YOU MORE

	2009 G5 SE	2010 TOYOTA COROLLA CE BASE SEDAN MODEL	2009 HONDA CIVIC DX BASE SEDAN MODEL
LOWER CASH PRICE	$13,998	$15,260**	$16,990**
AIR CONDITIONING	✔	X	X
AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION	✔	X	X
16" ALUMINUM WHEELS	✔	X	X
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY	✔	X	X
POWER DOOR LOCKS	✔	X	X
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Controversial seismic testing off the coast of B.C.

An environmental group says a U.S. research ship is headed for Canadian waters to begin controversial seismic testing, despite an ongoing court challenge. Ecojustice, an environmental law group, says the vessel Marcus Langseth could be off the west coast of Vancouver Island as early as today. THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANOC, IOC fight over sponsor cash

Organizing committee says they are owed $30M from international sponsorships

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Not long ago, it seemed like organizers of the 2010 Winter Games had constructed a gold-medal model on how to put on an Olympics.

New sports facilities in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C., were completed on schedule and on budget.

Yet with less than six months until the Olympic flame is lit in Vancouver, key knots in the plans for the 2010 Winter Games are slowly coming undone because of a worldwide recession.

No one is saying the 2010 Games' budget won't be balanced. But at a time when the focus should be on the final few details, a multi-million dollar budget shortfall is fraying the close ties that bind Vancouver officials and the International Olympic Committee.

Vancouver's committee, known as VANOC, has repeatedly claimed it's owed a further $30 million from the IOC's take from major international sponsors.

Not so, says the IOC.

From the IOC's perspective, its contractual obligation to VANOC has been met and even surpassed, says Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director for the Olympic Games.

"We may have some more to come but it's not an obligation of the IOC," Felli told The Canadian Press.

Felli and Rene Fasel, the chairman of the co-ordination commission, say the IOC has given more to VANOC than any other organizing committee.

VANOC's claim comes from its 2009 budget, developed on the assumption IOC would be able to sign 11 international sponsors and give them $196 million towards their $1.75-billion bottom line.

That was despite the fact that during the bid phase for the Games, the IOC's forecast for sponsorship was about $127 million in 2002 dollars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Navy aiming to wow the public

ARMED FORCES The Navy concluded it had an image problem while preparing for its 100th anniversary, and has decided to change that by launching public-relations exercises aimed at boosting its profile and attracting more recruits.

It's the smallest component of the Canadian Forces, with 9,200 employees, and its leaders hope that hot-button topics such as Arctic sovereignty and high-seas piracy will help tempt more people into a maritime career.

The Navy is now keen to take its message to Canadians. Starting this week, and through Oct. 5, the HMCS Ville de Quebec will travel from Halifax to Sarnia along the St. Lawrence Seaway and through the Great Lakes, stopping at numerous ports throughout Ontario and Quebec.

It's about as inland as the Navy can get.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

HMCS Ville de Quebec will travel from Halifax to Sarnia along the St. Lawrence Seaway as the Navy looks to boost its image.

The Great Lakes Deployment has become an annual event. But it takes on some added meaning as Canada's Navy prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2010.

With a brand new commander at its helm committed to raising the Navy's profile, Canadians can expect to hear a lot more from the Canadian Forces underdog.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder suspect found dead in B.C. motel room

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

Ryan Jenkins, a Canadian man wanted for the murder and dismemberment of his model ex-wife in Los Angeles, has been found dead in a motel room in Hope, B.C.

Police say staff found Jenkins yesterday afternoon, and that it appears he committed suicide.

Ryan Jenkins

"We'll carry on with the investigation into the circumstances of his death and … how he came to be in that motel room," RCMP Sgt. Duncan Pound said at a press conference in Surrey last night.

Pound said it's too early to say how long Jenkins had been at the motel.

Police had held a press conference earlier in the afternoon to confirm that Jenkins, 32, a wealthy Calgary native, crossed the border sometime after the remains of Jasmine Fiore were found in a dumpster on Aug. 15.

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Mid-air collision kills four

Police say four people have been killed after a helicopter and small plane collided in western Germany. The two aircraft collided near the town of Ellwangen, east of Stuttgart, yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Pope's cast comes off

Pope Benedict XVI has made his first public appearance since having the cast removed from his broken right wrist. The pontiff joked during his weekly Sunday blessing that his wrist was "freed" but still a bit "lazy." The 82-year-old pontiff broke his wrist during a late-night fall in the papal Alpine chalet in northern Italy on July 17. The cast was removed Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands flee Greek fires

Officials say response not fast enough as wildfires threaten suburban Athens

A raging wildfire raced down a mountain slope in Greece toward the town of Marathon yesterday, nearing two ancient temples while despairing residents pleaded for firefighters and equipment that were nowhere to be seen.

Tens of thousands of residents of Athens' northern suburbs evacuated their homes, fleeing in cars or on foot. Several houses were destroyed as the fire advanced across an area more than 50 kilometres wide.

More than 90 wildfires have ignited since Saturday across Greece, and six major fires were burning late yesterday. The Athens fire began on Mount Penteli, which divides Athens from the Marathon plain, and has spread down both sides of the mountain. Driven by gale-force winds, the blaze grew fastest near Marathon, from which the modern long-distance foot race takes its name.

"If they do not come right now, the fire will be uncontrollable. Please, bring two or three fire engines at least ... for God's sake," Vassilis Tzilalis, a resident of the seaside resort of Nea Makri, near Marathon, told TV channel Mega.

The mayor of Marathon said he had been "begging the government to send over planes and helicopters" to no avail. Spyros Zagaris was among several local leaders who accused the government of having no plan to fight the fire.

Another official said emergency workers were exhausted.

"The firefighters, soldiers and volunteers fighting the fire are tired and their equipment is being used constantly and there is fatigue there too," said deputy interior minister Christos Markoyiannakis. Other officials said help was on the way. Two planes were expected from France, and Cyprus was sending a helicopter, four fire engines and 60 firefighters.

Authorities evacuated two large children's hospitals, as well as campsites and homes in villages and outlying suburbs threatened by blazes that scattered ash across Athens.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NIKOLAS GIAKOUMIDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A firefighter sprays water on a burning tree near Agios Stephanos, a suburb north of Athens.

Fires raging

- About 15,000 hectares of pine forest, brush and olive groves have burned. The forests around Athens' northern suburbs have helped the fire spread.

Health-care debate hits Arizona, Whole Foods

U.S. The state of Arizona, Whole Foods, various lobbyists — they're all paying a price this summer amid a blistering debate on health-care reform in the United States that's bitterly pitting left against right.

Officials in Phoenix are trying to convince travel guide guru Arthur Frommer to reconsider his recent proclamation: he doesn't consider Arizona a safe travel destination after seeing images of armed protesters outside a presidential event in the city last week.

"I will not personally travel in a state where civilians carry loaded weapons onto the sidewalks and as a means of political protest," said Frommer in a message to his readers on the Frommers.com website.

Frommer was referring to the scene outside a town hall on health-care reform hosted by President Barack Obama, where several protesters in the crowd toted guns. Arizona is one of several American states that allow citizens to openly carry weapons.

Whole Foods, meantime, was dealing with a similar backlash.

The organic supermarket chain was facing a growing boycott by its largely liberal, well-heeled customers almost two weeks after company president John Mackey argued against health-care reform.

"A careful reading of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution will not reveal any intrinsic right to health care, food or shelter, because there isn't any," Mackey wrote in a piece that also alleged 830,000 Canadians were waiting for treatment north of the border.

"This 'right' has never existed in America."

By yesterday, more than 25,000 Whole Foods customers had joined a boycott of the company as some advertising analysts warned Mackey's views represented the kind of "brand dissonance" that could hurt the company's bottom line.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I will not personally travel in a state where civilians carry loaded weapons onto the sidewalks as a means of political protest."
Travel guru Arthur Frommer

North, South mourn late leader

KOREA Tens of thousands, including representatives from the North, gathered for the funeral yesterday of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, a long-time defender of democracy and Nobel Peace Prize winner for his efforts to reach out to North Korea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Family pleads for Canadian's release

KIDNAPPING A year after Canadian journalist Amanda Lindhout was kidnapped in Somalia, her family members have given a rare glimpse into their ordeal.

In a statement, the families of Lindhout and Australian photographer Nigel Brennan, said they're working tirelessly for the release of their loved ones.

"With little outside support, the families — who have been united as one throughout this horrendous ordeal — continue to do everything and anything to gain the earliest possible release for their loved ones Amanda and Nigel," the statement said.

Lindhout, 28, from Sylvan Lake, Alta., was kidnapped along with Brennan near Mogadishu on Aug. 23, 2008.

In a phone call to OMNI TV earlier this month, a woman claiming to be Lindhout appealed to the Canadian government to do everything possible to obtain her release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

NIGERIA A top militant commander and his followers in Nigeria's oil-rich Delta region on Saturday surrendered rocket launchers, gunboats, guns and bullets in the biggest hand-over of weapons since a government amnesty began two weeks ago. Ebikabowei "Boyloaf" Victor Ben, state commander for the region's biggest armed group, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, and 25 commanders under his leadership delivered weapons to police overnight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The True Home Phone Comparison

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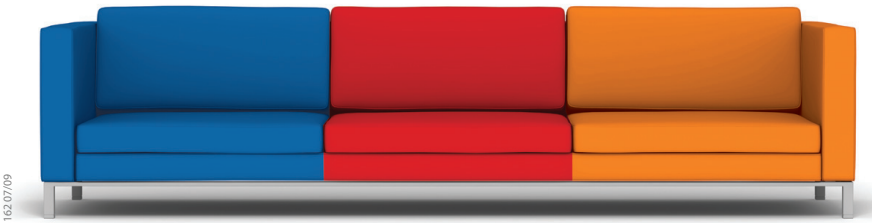

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New tropical storm forms in Pacific
The U.S. National Hurricane Center says Tropical Storm Hilda has formed far out in the Pacific. Hilda is the eighth named storm of the Pacific hurricane season. It has maximum sustained winds near 65 km/h. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jordan **Ramadan begins**

MOHAMMAD ABU GHOSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cook makes qatayef, a pancake-like shell filled with nuts or sweet cheese, fried in oil or baked then dipped in sugar syrup, in Amman yesterday. This popular sweet only appears in Ramadan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims worldwide.

Afghanistan election 'rigged': Challenger

VOTE Afghan President Hamid Karzai's leading challenger accused him of using the state to "rig" this week's election and detailed allegations of cheating by government officials in an interview Saturday with The Associated Press.

Abdullah Abdullah, once Karzai's foreign minister, said he was in contact with other campaigns to explore the possibility of a coalition candidacy in case none of the 36 candidates won enough votes in last Thursday's ballot to avoid a run-off, probably in October.

The accusations, which Karzai's spokesman denied, are the most direct Abdullah has made against the incumbent in a contest that likely has weeks to go before a winner is proclaimed.

Both Abdullah and Karzai claim they are in the lead based on reports from campaign poll watchers monitoring the count.

Officials of Abdullah's campaign have alleged fraud in several southern provinces where the insurgency is strongest and Karzai had been expected to run strong.

"He uses the state apparatus in order to rig an election," Abdullah said in the interview.

Abdullah said it "doesn't make the slightest difference" whether Karzai or his supporters ordered the alleged fraud.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan 'serious and deteriorating'

A top U.S. military officer described the situation in Afghanistan as "serious and deteriorating," but refused to say whether defeating the enemy would require more than the 68,000 American troops already committed.

Admiral Mike Mullen also expressed concern yesterday about eroding public support as the U.S. and NATO enter their ninth year of combat and reconstruction operations. In interviews, Mullen and U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry said last week's presidential election in Afghanistan was historic, given the threats of intimidation voters faced.

The situation in Afghanistan needs to be reversed in the next 12 to 18 months, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germans stay put

- Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday German troops would stay in Afghanistan until their goals were achieved, dismissing a timeline for withdrawal.

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Libyan Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, who was found guilty of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, gestures on his arrival at an airport in Tripoli, Libya in this photo taken last week.

Scottish leader defends release

The head of Scotland's government said yesterday that FBI director Robert Mueller was wrong to criticize the decision to free the Pan Am Flight 103 bomber — insisting there was public support for the release on compassionate grounds.

Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, a Libyan convicted of killing 270 people in the 1988 airline bombing, was released Thursday because he is terminally ill with prostate cancer. He has returned to his native Libya to die.

The release was met with outrage by families of the U.S. victims of the bombing.

In a letter to Scotland's government, Mueller said that al-Megrahi's release would give comfort to terrorists all over the world.

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond told BBC Radio that Mueller was wrong in assuming that all those affected by the bombing were opposed to al-Megrahi's release.

"I understand the huge and strongly held views of the American families, but that's not all the families who were affected by Lockerbie," Salmond said. "As you're well aware, a number of the families, particularly in the U.K., take a different view and think that we made the right decision."

The explosion of a bomb hidden in the cargo hold of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, killed all 259 people on the plane and 11 on the ground in Britain's worst terrorist attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel calls for article's condemnation

SWEDEN Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday called for the Swedish government to condemn an article in a Stockholm newspaper suggesting Israeli troops harvested the organs of Palestinians they killed.

An official at the weekly session of the Israeli Cabinet said Netanyahu told his ministers he did not expect the Swedish government to apologize for the article in the tabloid Aftonbladet but he did expect it to take a stand.

"We're not asking the Swedish government for an apology, we're asking for their condemnation," the official — speaking on condition of anonymity — quoted Netanyahu as saying. The prime minister added that the story was reminiscent of medieval libels that Jews killed Christian children for their blood, said the official. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ENVIRONMENT U.S. researchers are hoping that a surveillance balloon about the size of a two-story house will help decrease western Lake Erie dead zones where decaying algae plants suck up oxygen needed by fish and other wildlife. The $125,000 US unmanned SkySentry Aerostat blimp, initially designed for military surveillance and communications, is testing its cameras and other equipment above a barge off Maumee Bay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Classy first-day outfits

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Aug. 24. Across the land begins an annual event of monumental proportion, stretching back almost to the dawn of time. Schoolgirls are choosing their outfit for the first day of class.

Frankly, it's ridiculous that some girls spend their last weeks of summer deciding on one outfit. They should have started earlier. Any girl from Grade 1 to college knows: What you wear the first day of school will determine who you are and how people view you for the entire year to come. Maybe it's the same for boys. But in my experience, a boy's idea of a perfect outfit is "whatever I can find on my bedroom floor that doesn't yet smell."

Growing up, I always struggled with what to wear that first day. I blame this on Barbie. Forget the unobtainable body image Barbie presents. I wanted her unobtainable wardrobe.

Dressing Barbie convinced me that the perfect outfit for any occasion was a designer tennis dress, red high heels and a French poodle. My parents insisted that real life wasn't like this but I didn't buy it. I knew my future would be spent sashaying to the grocery store or my job as an astronaut wearing a sparkly pink ball gown.

SunnySide

My parents would never let me have a Ken doll. I suspect they worried that I might allow Barbie and Ken to engage in acts of unspeakable intimacy. Instead, I was allowed as many Barbies as I wanted. Given that I turned out gay, I've often wondered if they ever regretted this particular parenting choice.

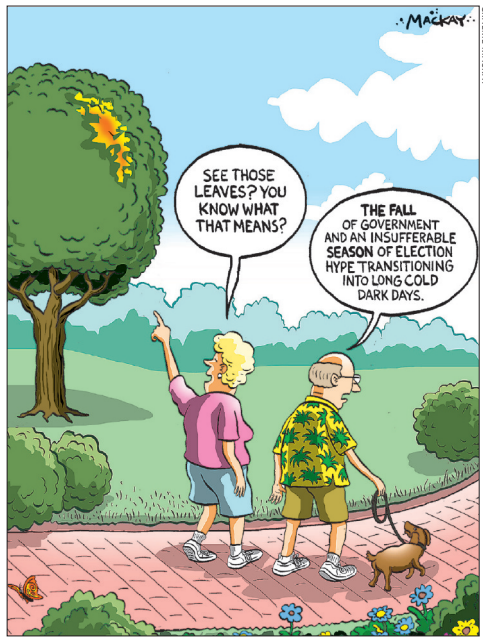
Bottom line though, Barbie's manufacturers should be held responsible for instilling unrealistic fashion expectations in impressionable young girls. They should be forced to make half of Barbie's skirts so she can't get into them any more, shoes with last year's heels, and sweaters she borrowed from her brother.

In a few weeks I'll start school again, continuing to train as a United Church minister. Once again, I'll have to come up with a first day outfit, though, frankly, when you're both a university student and clergy, no one sets the fashion bar very high.

But for all you other schoolgirls out there, let the mall plundering begin. On with the day-long conferences with friends, the online checking to see what Lindsay and Miley are wearing. And may that first-day outfit be all you ever dreamed of.

Me? I'll be satisfied when I've shopped for groceries in a pink ball gown.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



GRAEME MACKAY

Views

GO expansion reckless, irresponsible

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

Quick tip

- Commuters in the GTA and beyond should now review their choices based on cost, convenience and trip times. GO, Coach Canada, Greyhound and VIA Rail offer monthly and multiple-day fares. Private buses often run non-stop and unlike GO, have bathrooms. Note that VIA has special tickets for GO users. Look up "Commuter" on their websites or contact your local station.

GO Transit is moving into new territory, but will commuters be better off overall? As soon as Sept. 5, weekday GO buses begin stopping in Peterborough, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls and, later in the fall, Kitchener and Cambridge.

Politicians and residents from cities beyond the GTA have been asking for GO trains, too, and studies are underway. Until now, Barrie was one of the few locations lying outside GO's official turf, Greater Toronto and Hamilton.

Commuters in southern Ontario deserve more choices, but the province has no apparent strategy to avoid losing the options we have now. Bus firms like Greyhound and Coach Canada already have significant commuter service through the "Greater Golden Horseshoe" and now face competition from tax-subsidized GO Transit.

This summer, Ontario Transport Minister Jim Bradley brought weekend GO rail service to Niagara Falls, which passes through his riding of St. Catharines.

The downside is the corridor is already served by VIA Rail and private bus companies. New GO service will increase travel options but could also poach customers from the others. If they in turn cut back on frequency, are we better off, especially since GO's losses are covered by taxes?

The provincial planning agency Metrolinx recently completed a master transport plan, but only for the GTA and Hamilton. With politicians outside this area pushing for GO service — and Queen's Park agreeing to look into it — the government is flying without a map. The Metrolinx plan tries to justify the cost of new service based on ridership, not just politics.

Premier Dalton McGuinty has not shown the public a similar plan for the province, and the ministry of transportation has no obvious strategy.

Queen's Park owns two major train and bus networks — GO and Ontario Northland. Ontario benefits from extensive VIA Rail and private bus service. We also need high-speed rail.

But with no clear game plan to co-ordinate and build a shared public-private network, sending GO into new territory is reckless as well as fiscally irresponsible.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Letters

Ontarians need to speak out against harmonized sales tax

Re: Combining GST, PST tough sell: Premier (Aug. 19)

I am hopping mad about the proposed harmonized sales tax (HST). In particular, I would like to comment on Premier Dalton McGinty's flat-out rejection of the suggestion that the harmonized tax might be an easier sell if Queen's Park reduced the provincial tax: "Can't afford it — it's as simple as that."

Well, Ontarians are simply taxed from paying so much tax! Are we asked if we can afford it? I know I haven't been asked, and I also know I can't afford it.

This is just another ploy to help businesses in Ontario at the expense of individuals. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce believes "a fully blended system would cost consumers approximately $905 million in additional sales taxes per year, while the GST and PST bill for companies would fall by $1.6 billion annually." So wouldn't the province actually lose money with the HST?

Ontarians need to pull together and speak out against the proposed HST.

DEANNA WOLFF, TORONTO

Transit, even diesel trains, better for the environment

Re: Increasing diesel trains cited as health risk (Aug. 20)

I read with disbelief that the Toronto medical officer of health would write a letter discouraging the enhancement of public transit of any nature (diesel or not).

While an increase in the number of diesel trains on the Georgetown GO corridor may cause a small localized increase in air pollution, the real issue is that for every train added to the route, there is the potential of removing hundreds and even thousands of cars from the road with a large net decrease in air pollution to the GTA as a whole.

One would think a medical health officer would do everything in their power to increase public transit, not put up road blocks to slow it down.

While electric trains may be healthier than diesel trains, public transit is a vast improvement over individual cars for the overall health and environment for the people of Ontario.

ROB MACLACHLAN, ERIN

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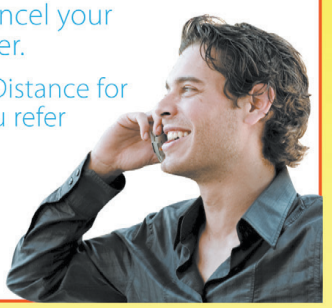

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Chinese oil giant Sinopec profit surges

Sinopec, Asia's biggest refiner by volume, which is also known as China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., said its first-half profit soared threefold to 33.2 billion yuan ($5.25 billion) from a year earlier on lower crude costs and changes in government price controls. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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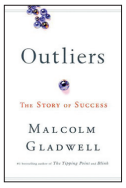

Malcolm Gladwell, No. 1 bestselling author of The Tipping Point and Blink, has returned with yet another page turner filled with captivating social phenomena.

Discussing the outlying sample, a scientific term for describing "things or phenomena that lie outside normal experience," Gladwell examines the likes of Bill Clinton and the Beatles to understand how they have attained so much success.

An issue that comes about is the problem of how we look at success. Examining a tall tree and trying to know how it grew to such heights yields little information. Gladwell suggests shifting this approach to looking at the surrounding forest for the success factors. This suggests that those who surround the successful person are playing a major part in the person's ultimate achievements.

CRAIG LUND
/FOR METRO CANADA

Craig Lund, a director with the staffing firm Marketers on Demand, can be reached at craig.lund@marketersondemand.com

BookReview

Business in brief

LIQUOR Quebecers' lust for the good life has them bucking a national trend towards slower alcohol sales as the provincial liquor board reported rising profits and sales despite the recession. The Societe des alcools du Quebec said its first-quarter profits rose 12.8 per cent to $187 million as wine lovers drove up sales by 7.3 per cent. It earned $21.2 million more from sale of wine, spirits and beer than a year earlier.

MINING Junior gold mine developer Medoro Resources Ltd. says it narrowed its second-quarter net loss to $500,000 or one cent a share from $3 million or three cents a year ago. The company had no metals revenues as it develops its operations through acquisitions, but cut quarterly operating expenses by $1.6 million year over year and reduced foreign exchange losses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank earnings hit bottom?

Canadian bank earnings, due out this week, are expected to hit bottom this quarter amid significant loan losses due in large part to the declining value of commercial real estate.

Unlike residential real estate in Canada, which has rebounded sharply in recent months — residential resale activity jumped 18.2 per cent in July from a year earlier — commercial real estate, mainly the office building sector, is still struggling.

Data from CB Richard Ellis indicates commercial real estate transactions fell by more than half in the first half of 2009 compared with last year, while the vacancy rate for office space across Canada rose to 8.3 per cent in the second quarter compared to 6.4 per cent a year earlier.

$2.6B Scotia Capital analyst Kevin Choquette said he expects loan-loss provisions in the third quarter to increase to $2.6 billion or 0.83 per cent of loans compared to $1.4 billion or 47 per cent of loans a year earlier.

As a result, the value of commercial real estate hasn't bounced back like home prices have and in many places is still on the decline. This means banks that lent money to commercial office holders may end up losing money, particularly if the value of the property falls below the value of the mortgage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Game plan **Major brands court young Chinese**

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

A worker arranges Barbie dolls at the display at Barbie's Shanghai flagship store in Shanghai, China. Major brands ranging from Nike Inc. to Barbie doll maker Mattel Inc. are courting young Chinese shoppers eagerly to shore up revenue as demand elsewhere slumps. China has 200 million potential consumers aged 15 to 24, according to the national census bureau.

Markets get hope from Bernanke

RALLY Stock markets look set to build on the 2009 rally this week after U.S. Federal Reserve Board chairman Ben Bernanke said the U.S. economy is on the verge of a long-awaited recovery.

His comment Friday came at the end of a week that saw the Toronto market lose ground for a second week on worries around how much help the U.S. consumer and Asian economies will be in supporting a recovery.

And despite Bernanke's upbeat assessment of the economy, there are still plenty of worries about the American consumer, which makes up a huge 70 per cent of the economy.

"I just don't see any customers," said Danielle Park at Venable Park Investment Counsel in Barrie. "They're literally so stressed out trying to juggle the debt they do have and are afraid about their jobs that they're just looking at stuff going: 'Don't need it, drive on.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Honda to unveil all-electric vehicle

CARS Honda Motor Co. plans to introduce electric vehicles in the U.S. in the first half of the next decade.

Japan's second-biggest car maker is building an all-electric prototype to be unveiled at the Tokyo Motor Show in October, the Nikkei newspaper said.

With U.S. environmental regulations expected to toughen, automakers are stepping up efforts to release zero-emission cars.

Nissan is set to begin selling its Leaf electric hatchback in the U.S. next year. Toyota plans to launch electric models by 2012. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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80 U.S. banks failed this year
The toll of failed U.S. banks is mounting, with 80 institutions closed by regulators so far this year — the most since 1992 at the height of the savings-and-loan crisis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flight plan for disaster?

Aviation industry should not self-govern on safety: Critics

Proponents predict it will make air travel in Canada safer than ever. Critics call it a flight plan for disaster.

A controversial new regulatory system that forces the aviation industry to enforce its own safety standards has some accusing Ottawa of abdicating responsibility for ensuring the safety of Canadian passengers, citing tragic experiences in Canada's rail industry as cautionary tales.

For nearly a decade, rail safety in Canada has been governed by a so-called safety management system. Companies are responsible for devising their own safety plans according to regulatory standards and must ensure that their day-to-day operations conform.

During that period, however, several accidents took place that were blamed on faulty rail-safety systems, including a runaway train in 2006 that killed two railway workers.

"It's like the fox running the henhouse," said Virgil Moshansky, a former judge whose investigation into the deadly Air Ontario crash in 1989 in the northwestern Ontario town of Dryden led to major changes in Canada's aviation industry.

"It seems that Transport Canada, or the government, or both, need a major disaster to happen before they take action."

Moshansky headed up the inquiry that probed the crash that killed 24 people when ice buildup on the wings sent the plane careening into the ground, where it burst into flames and broke apart.

As part of the changes, a federal program to audit airline safety procedures has been cancelled and Transport Canada intends to stop regulating the frequency of inspections.

Transport Canada inspectors won't enforce safety regulations for companies with their own safety management systems. They will simply inspect safety reports written by the companies themselves.

Federal legislation that would have enshrined the changes into law died when last year's election was called. The changes will instead be made through regulations, which do not require the approval of Parliament. That will leave it up to companies to devise their own safety policies, identify risks and make employees aware of the need for safety. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Merkel urges GM to act on Opel

AUTO German Chancellor Angela Merkel said yesterday that General Motors Corp. needs to make a decision soon on the future of its Opel unit, and that she hoped for progress in the coming week.

In an interview with ZDF television, Merkel said that despite stumbles last week, "we are still well along the way."

GM on Friday made no decision between bids from a consortium led by Canada's Magna International and Brussels-based investor RHJ International.

The board instead questioned the aid package offered by Germany in the deal because it only included an option to fund the Magna group.

"For the employees, and also for the economic situation at Opel, it is imperative that we get a decision. Every day counts."
German Chancellor Angela Merkel

Merkel said she regretted that a decision wasn't made, but she recognized that there was still negotiating to be done and she hoped "we can move ahead in the next week."

"For the employees, and also for the economic situation at Opel, it is imperative that we get a decision," she said.

"Every day counts."

The German government has been clear that it wants the Magna group — which includes Russian lender Sberbank — to gain the controlling interest. GM has said it would prefer RHJ because the Magna-Sberbank bid raises the possibility of GM patents and intellectual property falling into competitors' hands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico VW plant workers end strike

LABOUR Workers at Volkswagen's plant in Mexico — the only one in the world turning out the company's new Beetle — ended a five-day strike Saturday after negotiating a three per cent salary increase, the company said.

Workers will get a two per cent raise starting this month and an additional one per cent in December. The 9,400 workers at the plant in the central city of Puebla will also get a one-time payment of 2,000 pesos ($168), the German carmaker said in a statement.

The company employs a total of 14,700 people in Mexico. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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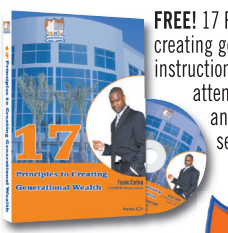

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Keeping your cool this summer

Keep your home cool this summer by using window coverings and a couple of fans instead of air conditioning, says the Conservation Council of Ontario. Open windows and run fans at night when it's cooler outside. Shut and curtain most windows during the day. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

$50 voucher for microwaves

Panasonic will be testing a free microwave recycling program in Toronto over the long weekend that, if successful, may become a bigger cross-Canada initiative. Owners can drop off any brand of old microwave at 23 Future Shops and get a coupon for up to $50 for a more energy-efficient model. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Preserve green spaces for people

EarthTones

Sophia Dore & Andrew Laursen

metronews.ca/earthtones

Last weekend we took a walk in a park run by the local conservation authority. It was a beautiful summer day and we saw trees and wildflowers and birds of all descriptions and people — many, many people.

We had always thought the conservation authority set aside land for parks for the land's sake. For the sake of letting trees and wildflowers grow, which then provide habitat for birds and other animals (depending on the size of the park). However, it was brought home to us last weekend that the primary beneficiaries of the park are the people.

There was a huge diversity of age and ethnic backgrounds among the park's patrons. On the paths there were families like ourselves, some pushing strollers, some on bicycles ranging from racing bikes to tricycles. There were buff bodies whizzing by on in-line skates, people walking dogs from huge hairy hounds to little lap dogs travelling in purses and, yes, in doggie strollers. There were older people walking briskly, strolling along or being pushed in wheelchairs.

The picnic areas were also full of life. There were people taking a break from their bike rides to enjoy a bottle of water and there were huge multi-generational families with cloth tablecloths spread on the picnic tables, who had set up hammocks and canopies and tents, where some folks lounged while others prepared huge meals on charcoal barbecues. Kids wove in and out, chasing balls and dogs and each other. The food prepared ranged from sandwiches, to hamburgers and hotdogs, to exotic-smelling kebabs and other delicacies depending on the tastes of the picnickers.

Sometimes the preservation of the environment seems like an abstract idea. Saving habitat we have never seen to protect animals we have never seen; curtailing chemicals that we can't see. However, the observation of the activities in the park show that preserving green spaces directly benefits us all.

In Canada we are lucky enough to have unspoiled green spaces that are open to all and we as a society love them and take full advantage of them.

While some people, depending on their income level and where they live, can enjoy a day outside in their own yards, others do not have that luxury. This is where parks come in. Preserving these parks is crucial to the health and well-being of those who depend on them for their days outdoors.

Picnicking under a tree on a beautiful summer day should be a right for all humans.

Sophia Dore is an environmental scientist with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. Andrew Laursen is an assistant professor at Ryerson University; earthtones.metro@gmail.com.

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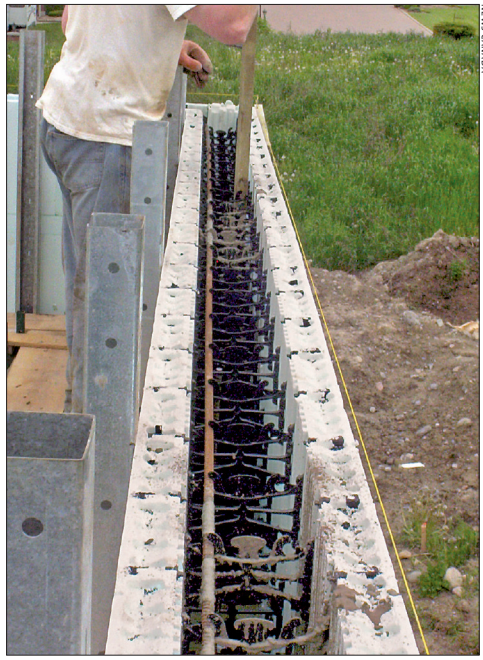
Fill your dishwasher and let it air-dry

Pitch-In Canada suggests always washing a full load of dishes in the dishwasher and, if your dishwasher has it, allowing the dishes to air-dry on the "energy-saver" setting, according to Future Friendly (futurefriendlybrands.ca). METRO NEWS SERVICES

Net-zero buildings save on energy use

Home construction is turning green so rapidly, it is expected that a house soon will be so energy efficient there will be no need to tap the public supply. In mathematical terms: The energy a home is able to generate, subtract the energy required by the occupants, would be zero.



NEWS CANADA

The Nudura wall construction system, shown above, is one product that can be used to create an energy-efficient building.

"Three main elements must co-exist for it to work cost-efficiently," says Todd Blyth at Nudura, a manufacturer of advanced concrete wall forms. "Those components are: The ability to generate a constant energy supply; a building envelope with maximum strength and insulation; and an inside operation with reduced energy usage.

"If, at the outset, energy-impact decisions are made carefully regarding the walls, windows, roofing, ventilation and indoor climate control, you are well on your way to completely offsetting energy consumption. Once the building is erected, it's a matter of smaller incremental decisions that add into the energy savings."

This vision is already a reality. In 2010, the first "net-zero" school building will open in the United States, where it will showcase an important Canadian design element, as well as others.

- A roof with solar panels and electricity grid.
- Geothermal heating and cooling for environmentally responsible efficiency.
- Walls of concrete. The Nudura system is comprised of stay-in-place, pre-assembled blocks, steel reinforced, and then filled with concrete. It replaces traditional building methods. The durability and energy efficiency of concrete has shown to reduce energy costs up to 70 per cent. The entire structure (www.nudura .com) is reported to be up to nine times stronger, with far more fire protection and with far more sound insulation.
- Ventilation includes a CO2 monitoring system to keep good air quality indoors and allow no more outdoor air than necessary.
- Positioning is north-south allowing for effective day lighting (without glare) so that all artificial lighting can be off during 70 per cent of school hours.

NEWS CANADA

Tips for summer entertaining

ENTERTAINING Canadians are trying to simultaneously beat the recession and global warming in their own way — even from the comfort of their backyard barbecue bashes.

Edith Jakobs, the owner of Toronto-based Opulence Catering, has noticed a shift in her clients' preferences this summer. Serving much of Ontario's Cottage Country, where evening brunches and outdoor soirées abound, Jakobs has seen her clients make a concerted move toward what's best for the environment.

"As the summer months heat up, my office is flooded with phone calls to cater and style outdoor parties," said Jakobs.

"However, this summer my clients are much more concerned about making their events environmentally-friendly without hurting their pocketbook."

Jakobs says simplicity is her No. 1 principle for eco-entertaining, and adds there are many ways to throw an environmentally conscious party with ease.

NEWS CANADA

Eco-friendly

- Visit a farmers' market for fruits and vegetables. Locally grown produce has a lower carbon footprint because it hasn't travelled over a great distance, which also means it's the freshest.
- By choosing wine from a local vineyard, you are lowering shipping emissions. Also, consider purchasing wine in a Tetra Pak carton, which can be reprocessed.
- Use your own dishes; wash with biodegradable soap.
- Decorate with wildflowers that are grown locally.

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The Ultimate RESORT COTTAGE ON THE LAKE!

Everyone has a favourite memory of spending summers at the cottage and if you don't, you must have heard a story or two. The cottage experience is as Canadian as peameal bacon or real maple syrup and should be experienced by everyone at least once in their life. Sitting by a campfire roasting hot dogs and marshmallows, learning about "smores" and "spider dogs" is a rite of passage for any young camper.

So here I go looking into the options I have to share the cottage experiences I had with my children. What are the options and how can I afford them?

As I looked into cottages, I found it was quite simple to find something to rent but what about ownership? The thought of being able to drop everything after a long week at work and juice the old batteries up along with my kids having a safe, friendly and memorable place to spend their summers would be perfect.

What I found is that cottages can be very expensive. My grandfather had told me the story of how each of his three brothers chipped in five thousand and they got a little place with an out house on Chandos Lake up near Apsley, Ontario, but as a kid I loved that cottage. All I could find for twenty grand nowadays was a pop-up tent trailer that we would need to tow around to campgrounds. Camping wasn't going to be an option anyway as my wife's idea of roughing it was a hotel without room service. Although RV parks seemed like a good option with activities for the kids and security in the off season, I just couldn't get the picture of trailer park boys out of my head.

The cottages I liked seemed to cost as much as my home if not more, some over four hundred thousand. The more I thought about cottage ownership the more I realized it would mean two houses to maintain and the whole idea was to get away from cutting grass and fixing things so I could spend more time with my children and simply relaxing. I could afford a "Fractional Ownership" type cottage with maintenance fees. I could justify the fees as they do all the work, but one hundred thousand for something I could only use for 4 or 5 weeks wasn't the answer either, besides we can only play so many games of crazy eights before the kids would get bored.

Then I found an alternative, it's not a four hundred thousand cottage on the lake but it's not a little trailer in a campground either. They call them "Resorts Cottages" or "Park Model Homes". Just imagine a small cottage look outside and beautifully decorated condo inside for only $59,900 to $129,900. Sounds too good to be true I thought a full ownership cottage, maintenance free and activities for the kids...what's the catch.

It turns out that RV's (recreational vehicles) come in all shapes and sizes and some look just like a little house. One, two and three bedroom models that sleep up to eight comfortably and come fully furnished. You can own one in a resort that has converted itself from a trailer park to a Park Model Resort. They are upscale properties that usually have plenty of activities for everyone from heated pools and Kid's Clubs to recreation halls where they host events like wine and cheese parties or themed dances.

Woodland Estate on Lake Seymour and the world famous Trent Severn was the perfect spot for me and my family. Only 90 minutes from Toronto with great fishing and loads of activities. Woodland Estate is one of the best lakefront properties I have come across and some of the best sunsets we have ever experienced. They made owning a "Cottage" easy and cost effective...without a catch.

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Nationals claim MLL championship

Shawn Williams scored twice in the fourth quarter as the Toronto Nationals won their first ever Major League Lacrosse championship 10-9 yesterday against the Denver Outlaws. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Rare feat

Second baseman Eric Bruntlett, left, turned an unassisted triple play to end the Philadelphia Phillies' 9-7 victory over the New York Mets yesterday. It was the 15th unassisted triple play in major league history and the second that ended a game. Detroit Tigers first baseman Johnny Neun also accomplished the feat on May 31, 1927, completing a 1-0 victory over Cleveland, according to Stats LLC. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Elena Dementieva wins Rogers Cup title

Elena Dementieva's U.S. Open tuneup was an overwhelming success.

The No. 4 seed overcame an ugly first set to beat Maria Sharapova 6-4, 6-3 yesterday in the final of the $2-million US Rogers Cup. Dementieva's largely steady play was too much for an error-prone Sharapova to handle in the first all-Russian final in tournament history.

For Dementieva, who takes home $350,000 US for the win, the week couldn't have gone much better. The hard-court specialist dominated world No. 2 Serena Williams in the semifinal, and had a similarly easy time against former No. 1 Sharapova as she prepares for the U.S. Open, which gets underway Aug. 31.

"This kind of win gives you a lot of confidence, so right now it's all about recovering and getting ready for New York."
Elena Dementieva

"It's great to have so many good matches against so many top-10 players here," said Dementieva, who has just three wins in 11 career meetings with Sharapova. "I hope it's going to be good preparation. For sure, this kind of win gives you a lot of confidence, so right now it's all about recovering and getting ready for New York."

By contrast, Sharapova hardly looked like the player that beat three seeded opponents on the way to her first final since April 2008. Continuing her return from a serious shoulder injury that sidelined her for nearly a year, Sharapova committed 10 double faults yesterday and had trouble with even the most routine shots.

Despite her subpar performance against her compatriot, Sharapova said she was pleased by her overall showing.

"I think it was a really great week for me," said Sharapova, who pocketed $175,000 for the runner-up result. "Playing six matches was great leading up to the U.S. Open. I think this was really good preparation."

Sharapova had to endure a gruelling three-set match against Alisa Kleybanova in Saturday night's semifinal, and suggested the quick turnaround might have played a factor in her struggles yesterday.

"I wasn't as fresh as I was in the first round," said Sharapova. "It's a quick turnaround, but it's the finals. You can't really think about it. It's the way things go."

The first set was as sloppy as it gets, as both players fought breezy conditions in front of a packed house at the Rexall Centre. It featured eight service breaks, 14 double faults and a number of easy shots hit long, or drilled into the net.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays Romero rolls

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto starter Ricky Romero held the Los Angeles Angels to two runs and eight hits over six innings yesterday at the Rogers Centre as the Blue Jays cruised to an 8-3 win.

Barrichello wins European GP

F1 Brawn GP's Rubens Barrichello won the European Grand Prix yesterday to claim his first Formula One win since the 2004 Chinese GP. The 37-year-old Brazilian took advantage of a costly pit-stop error by Lewis Hamilton's McLaren team to record his 10th career win and boost his championship hopes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

TENNIS Canadian Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia saved seven match points in a clutch victory to win their seventh title of the season 3-6, 7-6 (7-2), 15-13 (match tiebreak) over Americans Bob and Mike Bryan yesterday at the Cincinnati Masters. In the men's final, Roger Federer beat Novak Djokovic 6-1, 7-5.

PGA Ryan Moore won for the first time on the PGA Tour with a birdie on the third hole of a sudden death playoff to beat Kevin Stadler yesterday at the Wyndham Championship.

SOCCER Tottenham and Chelsea stayed neck and neck at the top of the Premier League with away victories yesterday, while promoted Burnley followed up its win over Manchester United with a 1-0 triumph over Everton.

ROWING Dan Casaca of Toronto and Max Lang of Lumby, B.C., advanced to the men's pair semifinals as the world rowing championships opened in Poland yesterday. Casaca and Lang were third in their heat with a time of six minutes 42.16 seconds.

BASEBALL John Smoltz had a brilliant debut with the St. Louis Cardinals, striking out a season-high nine and holding San Diego to three hits over five scoreless innings in a 5-2 victory yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hart's CSA future uncertain

It's Called Football

Think back to the Nagano Olympics — the one where Canada bombed out of the men's hockey competition.

Days after the fact reports were being commissioned to figure out what had happened to Canadian hockey.

Not a moment was wasted trying to figure out what went wrong.

Now flash forward to just more than a year ago. The men's national soccer team, attempting to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1986, tied a Jamaican squad 1-1 in Toronto. It wasn't its elimination, but it was certainly its undoing.

Once Canada was eliminated from qualifying, there was no swift action, no reports commissioned. A few commentators offered critical observations and questioned then-head coach Dale Mitchell's abilities. But even the inspired mob, with its torches lit, could not force the Canadian Soccer Association into action.

This laissez-faire attitude continues on the part of the CSA.

After Dale Mitchell's eventual dismissal, CSA technical director Stephen Hart was appointed interim head coach.

He's well-liked by the players, has shown an understanding of the tactics needed to win in CONCACAF and achieved results.

But a month after the decent Gold Cup run headed by Hart, the CSA hasn't bothered to remove the interim tag. And when I caught up with Hart Friday to ask him how players like Dwayne De Rosario and Adrian Serioux might factor into the national side in the years ahead, he didn't sound like a man counting on getting the job full time.

"That's hard to say as I'm not the national coach — just an interim. Any coach coming in will wipe the slate clean," Hart said.

And he certainly didn't sound confident when I asked him about any upcoming friendlies.

"Any coach coming in is going to ask for a lot of international games on FIFA dates. They will want opposition against CONCACAF opponents so they can get used to that environment. They'll need quite a bit of games. But as I said, I'm just the interim head coach."

Hart admitted he has not had any formal discussions with the CSA about the full-time position. But I've since learned that the CSA board will meet next month — at which time it will discuss Hart's future.

For those in favour of removing the interim tag, it might be time to join the mob and relight the torches.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

ABU changes name to Crandall University
The Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches approved the name change for Atlantic Baptist University to Crandall University recently. The main reason for the name change is to expand the school's mission by overcoming perceptual obstacles resulting from a denominationally specific name. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Job opportunity

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment will be hiring suitable candidates tomorrow between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Toronto Centre Employment Resource Centre (21 St. Clair Avenue 100, Suite 600). METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Passion for wild weather

Be it storms or volcanoes, George Kourounis is there

OddJobs

Diane Peters

metronews.ca/oddjobs

When Hurricane Bill hit Atlantic Canada this weekend, most of us avoided the region and watched the rain, if at all possible, on TV.

Not George Kourounis. The 39-year-old Torontonian was in the eye of the storm.

As Canada's only storm chaser who's been able to make a living off the job, Kourounis tries to be at the centre of action for as many hurricanes, tornadoes and volcanic eruptions as he possibly can.

He grew up, however, with quite a different career path planned. A musician as a teen in Hull, Que., Kourounis came to Toronto to study audio engineering at Trebas Institute.

He did well as an engineer and eventually managed a large sound studio in downtown Toronto that did work for film and TV.

"It was very long hours and dealing with stressed-out clients," he recalls. Kourounis needed a way to chill. In 1998, he heard about a company taking people down to the US for two weeks of chasing tornados. "Well, this is pretty cool. I'm stressed out at work, I want to go and try this," he thought.

COURTESY GEORGE KOUROUNIS

As Canada's only storm chaser who's been able to make a living off the job, George Kourounis tries to be at the centre of action for as many storms and volcanic eruptions as he possibly can.

The trip got Kourounis totally hooked, so he set to learning everything he could — through books, the Internet and taking to experts — about storms.

He got extra time off work and spent his vacations trailing hurricanes and tornados. He began taking the entire month of May off every year: that's tornado season. He also began visiting erupting volcanoes.

"I got known as the guy who was always in the right place at the wrong time," says Kourounis, who became a pro at reading the sky and knowing just where a storm will hit. He took pictures and video footage of whatever he saw. Eventually, news organizations started calling and buying his stuff.

In 2006, a TV production company called. With them, he developed the show Angry Planet and sold it to the Outdoor Life Network. Thanks to this gig, he was able to quit his day job and chase storms professionally. He takes camera crews to dangerously hot caves, lakes of sulphur, lighting storms. Even if the show's not shooting a storm, he'll chase it on his own, often in his very beat-up 1999 Honda CRV.

When he's not travelling, he's following storms via the web, planning trips and editing tape for his show. He also sometimes gets to see his wife, whom he married on the edge of an exploding volcano in the South Pacific.

"She's very understanding. She knows it's my passion."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Storm chaser
Salary: It's hard to make a living; he does thanks to the TV show and freelance work for news agencies
Education: You have to teach yourself about meteorology and storms
Best part of the job: "Living my dream and seeing nature put on the most incredible displays."
Worst part of the job: "Sitting on planes and the jet lag. Bad food and bad hotels."

Correction

• In an article published in the Aug. 19, 2009 edition of Metro headlined "Caplan followed family's footsteps", we incorrectly reported that "it was discovered that a number of consultant contracts for eHealth Ontario ... were improperly awarded by then eHealth Ontario CEO Sarah Kramer." Ms. Kramer advises that all contracts awarded by eHealth Ontario were awarded with the full knowledge and support of the Board of Directors and not by her personally. She further advises that such awards were proper and were in keeping with applicable procurement guidelines. Metro regrets the error.

Workology in brief

WATERLOO The University of Waterloo's Office of Alumni Affairs is running a video contest called "Why Waterloo?" in which eligible participants can create 5-minute films about why they chose uWaterloo as their alma mater. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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$5 million for York bridge training programs
The Ontario government recently announced a $5.2-million investment in expanded bridge training programs at York University for internationally-trained newcomers to the province. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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When employees at Toronto's World Service Cargo go to work, they sell products they never ship for funds that don't exist to earn a paycheque they can't spend.

"It's very real to the individual," said Christina Chu, the company's program and service manager. That's because the non-profit, government funded World Service Cargo is one of 41 Canadian "practice firms" — realistic simulated work environments that act as training grounds for emerging business professionals.

The concept, which originated in Germany, is practiced in Ontario, Québec, British Columbia and more than 40 countries worldwide, allowing employees to communicate and co-ordinate on a global scale with fellow faux-firms. Those enrolled are placed in a department befitting their qualification (provided they succeed in the real-world interview process), where they work full, 40-hour workweeks for upward of three months.

PHOTO COURTESY WORLD SERVICE CARGO
A meeting in progress at World Service Cargo, a "practice firm" that offers realistic simulated work environments for professionals.

The format is ideal for new Canadians, said World Service Cargo marketing co-ordinator and program graduate Rahul Bhide, whose experience and past corporate culture is often rooted in the county from which they emigrated. "It gives you a chance to make sure your skills are current, to work in the Canadian work environment and actively look for a job."

Chu said roughly a quarter of time on-the-job is spent seeking jobs, which Bhide said allows employees to learn from others' job-hunting experiences. But there's also hunting on the side of the firm itself, said operations manager Waleed A. Maguid, which takes shape in studying the job market to see what skills will make labourers most job-ready.

"If a company requires people to be ready with certain skills we don't have, we implement them into our program," said Maguid, "This will benefit companies hiring in the future, rather than them spending two or three months investing money and training (employees) in their systems."

It's that kind of pre-emptive orientation Annie Grenier, the Quebec-based general manager of the Canadian Practice Firm Network grouping of organizations, said will aid employees avoid hiccups once hired by actual companies.

"If you make a mistake while doing the paycheques for 100 people, in the real world it would be quite a problem. In a practice firm, it's just virtual money," she said. "We want to create an environment that's as realistic as possible, but where there's also time to make errors, reflect on them and learn from them."

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- **World Service Cargo:** http://www.worldservice-cargo.com
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Editors are a cut above

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Backstage Pass

Video editing involves intuition, good judgment and creative choice, says award-winning editor Dominique Banoun.

Award-winning editor Dominique Banoun works hard to make sure you don't even notice what she does.

Banoun edits for the CBC and has worked on many programs and documentaries for the broadcaster including Disclosure, The National and Newsworld. She shared a Gemini Award win in 2008 for a CBC News: Sunday feature on young jazz singing phenom Nikki Yanofsky that was cut together in less than three days from dozens of hours of video and audio recordings.

Despite the immense amount of technical work that goes into editing, from splicing together video and audio clips to choreographing a coherent story, sometimes in mere minutes, Banoun says the ultimate goal of the editor is to make their own work invisible.

"When the editing is well done, it's seamless. That's what I aspire to — that you forget there's an edit there," Banoun said.

Born in England, Banoun moved to White Rock, B.C., 20 years ago to work as a dancer and dance instructor. She quickly realized she had a knack for editing after getting roped into taping rehearsals, which led to her editing together demos for her dance company.

Banoun took classes in editing at Videographe in Montreal and when she started working professionally, editors had to work in a linear fashion with tapes and VTR machines and most editors had to practice careful, choreographed movements to maximize the efficiency of physical actions like removing a tape.

Nowadays, all video Banoun receives is digitized to allow for non-linear editing using software and a computer.

Yet while the tools and technology of editing have changed, Banoun says the skills and challenges have remained the same.

"Editing is very detail-oriented. You have to work consistently, calmly in a very stressful environment. We're the last line before something goes to air," she said.

Banoun says the process of editing is a lot more organic than people realize, involving plenty of intuition, good judgment and creative choice.

"When you start shaping something, it feels like a sculpture. You start out with a mess and as you chip away a shape takes form."

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No baby for Paquin

Despite speculation, Anna Paquin is "not pregnant," her rep says. Blogs have been guessing the True Blood actress is expecting after she was spotted wearing a baggy dress in Beverly Hills on Wednesday. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

Milla marries

Actress Milla Jovovich married director Paul W.S. Anderson in an intimate outdoor ceremony at their home in Beverly Hills on Saturday. The bride, 33, wore a '60s-style mini dress she designed herself. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

O'Riordan carries No Baggage

Ex-Cranberries singer says reunion still a possibility

MAUREEN LITTLEJOHN
for Metro Canada

Dolores O'Riordan, the former singer of The Cranberries with the soaring, staccato voice, has released her second solo album since leaving the Irish supergroup in 2003.

No Baggage, written and co-produced by O'Riordan and Toronto-based Dan Brodbeck, is about the passage of her life, a topsy turvey trip that she is only starting to come to terms with now.

"The title is tongue-in-cheek. You could say I used the CD to shed my baggage. But, really all those experiences and feelings are what makes us who we are," she says over the phone from her home in Ontario's cottage country. She and her family spend half the year living in "the forest" and the other half is in Dublin.

Shooting to stratospheric fame when she was 19 with the band's first album Linger, O'Riordan toured the world and sold more than 40 million albums. At 23 she married Don Burton, the Canadian tour manager for Duran Duran. The pace and pressure was tremendous, and O'Riordan's health suffered. After 13 years and five albums, she decided she'd had enough. She and Burton settled into domestic life with their children, Taylor, 11, Molly, 8, Dakota, 4 and Donny, Burton's 17-year-old son from a previous relationship.

"I couldn't stay away from the piano," the 37-year-old musician admits. Her first solo album, Are You Listening? was released in 2007 and a tour followed. "It was such a change after being at home for four years. I felt like two different people," she says.

UNIVERSAL MUSIC PHOTO

Dolores O'Riordan is about to release her second solo album since splitting with the Cranberries.

On the cover of No Baggage, a white-clad O'Riordan perches on a stool in the middle of a frozen lake. The picture was taken on a whim in front of O'Riordan's Kawarthas-area house. "It was minus 28, a friend took that shot. We didn't alter it all," she says.

The album's reflective lead single, The Journey speaks of abandoning fears and grasping the moment. On Fly Through, an older, wiser O'Riordan looks back on her younger self and asks if she has found what she was searching for. "I think we're always searching for something that we won't feel until we finally leave the planet. That's inner peace," she says.

When she was named Honourary Patron of Trinity College's Philosophical Society earlier this year, O'Riordan played a few songs with her old bandmates. "It felt so natural," she says. Are there plans for a Cranberry reunion? "Oh, I will definitely play with them again," says O'Riordan.

In the meantime, she's going at her own pace and traveling light.

New music

- Dolores O'Riordan's new album No Baggage is out tomorrow.

Blue Rodeo readying new double-disc for October release

Blue Rodeo frontman Jim Cuddy feels the wind of change sweeping through a record industry that is increasingly moving away from traditional album releases.

He just doesn't care.

"It was funny 'cause just recently, (Radiohead lead singer) Thom Yorke said he couldn't be bothered making albums anymore — that the album was dead, and he was going to make singles from now on," Cuddy said in a recent telephone interview. "Well we're making a double record. In an effort to swim completely cross-current — we're very excited about this — we're making a double record, so we'll have a double vinyl and a double CD." Cuddy says Blue Rodeo is just finishing the new album at their Toronto studio now, and it'll be released at the end of October. The title, he thinks, will be All The Things We Left Behind.

"It's just sort of a massive work," Cuddy said. "It's 16 songs, and it's very enjoyable for us to be thinking about splitting it into two sections, and then splitting each one into a different side."

Cuddy said the record would feature vocals from Cuff the Duke's Wayne Petti. Unsurprisingly, the album sounds like it'll be a throwback of sorts.

"It's pretty organic, acoustic-y," he said. "It's got a lot of vocals on it. We're kind of harkening back to Neil Young, CSNY, that kind of vocal sound — much more falsetto, bigger choirs. "There's a couple songs that are very different for us, instrumentation-wise too. It's got a pretty wide range, as I think you'd expect from a double record." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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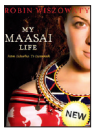
Will Heather be back?
Heather Locklear may be returning Melrose Place. "There are definitely talks going on," a show insider says. "It's better-than-even money that she'll do it. Everyone's optimistic, absolutely." USMAGAZINE.COM

Finding meaning with the Maasai

BookPicks

My Maasai **Life**

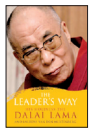
Author: Robin Wiszowaty
Publisher: Me to We Books
Price: $22.95 (Paperback)



Growing up in Schaumburg, Ill., Robin Wiszowaty realized suburbia held little appeal for her. And the escape she hoped for by attending the University of Illinois never materialized: The tedium of that experience only fuelled her fervour for change. But after taking a Birthright trip to Israel, her world was altered forever. In her 20s, she left for rural Kenya, embedding herself in a Maasai community, living in a hut and performing chores like water hauling. In My Maasai Life, Wiszowaty recalls how embracing a new culture taught her about the world and helped her find herself.

The Leader's **Way**

Author: Dalai Lama and Laurens van den Muyzenberg
Publisher: Broadway Books
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)



The Leader's Way encompasses a rare meeting of the spiritual and business worlds, which finds the Dalai Lama and international management consultant Laurens van den Muyzenburg trying to promote better decisions by individuals, companies and governments. The authors draw parallels between Buddhism and capitalism, showing how the former can elevate positivity and success in the latter. The Dalai Lama explains that Buddhist principles can aid in creating and using wealth and acting ethically. Overall, the Leader's Way reads as a guidebook to combating greater social problems.

The Spiders **of Allah**

Author: James Hider
Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin
Price: $18.95 (Paperback)

The inaugural book by the Middle East bureau chief for the Times finds him hitting the streets from Israel to Iraq, a disbeliever in the midst of holy wars and fundamentalist infighting. Trying to comprehend how people can murder and suffer in the name of faith, Hider attempts to gauge the mindsets of terrorists, religious leaders and suicide bombers, but is only left with more questions. He also explores how West Bank Zionists are still embroiled in ancient battles; how a U.S. president fights a war in the name of a higher power; and how combat can be perpetuated because of cultural misunderstanding.

— BRIAN COULTON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Screenings try to build buzz for Cameron's Avatar

FILM Eager moviegoers were getting their first look Friday at extended scenes from James Cameron's much-anticipated 3-D science fiction epic Avatar.

Screenings of about 16 minutes of the film were being held worldwide for fans who scored free tickets online. Avatar was to be shown on 102 U.S. screens and 342 screens internationally, across 58 countries in total.

Reactions to the mammoth marketing blitz were rolling in Friday on the web. Many were struck by its visual splendour, including Hong Kong moviegoer Jason Poon, who tweeted that it was "probably the best CG and 3-D I've ever seen." James Hilder in London said it was "mega impressive."

Not all the early reactions were laudatory. In Tel Aviv, Shay Ringel tweeted after a screening: "What was THAT?! ... Everyone walked out (scratching) their heads saying, 'Why are we here?'"

The screenings were an effort by Cameron and Twentieth Century Fox to build buzz for the film, the Canadian-born director's first since 1997's Titanic, which holds the box-office record, grossing $1.84 billion US worldwide. Avatar, which tells the story of humans who use avatars to explore the spectacular, but otherwise unsafe, planet of Pandora, will be released in its entirety Dec. 18. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PREMIER INTRODUCTIONS

From alt-rock to all country

Finger 11 guitarists test new sound as Blackie Jackett Jr.

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

Strange things happen when you sit in a tour bus sharing a bottle of whiskey. Some people even start writing country music. Which is exactly what happened to James Black and Rick Jackett, the two guitarists of Finger 11.

Strange indeed since Finger 11 is the rock band from Burlington, Ont., with the world-wide hit Paralyzer. It's not what you'd call "twangy." Not in the least.

But this week, under the name Blackie Jackett Jr., the two are releasing a new country CD called Whiskey And Tears. Replete with jangling banjo and honky tonk grit — it's got a sound that's a lot closer to Johnny Cash than Finger 11.

Blackie Jackett Jr. happened accidentally, almost as a joke. In between concerts and studio sessions — usually with the help of a shared bottle or two — Black and Jackett would pass time making up hokey country tunes, seeing how many times they could work hurtin' or drinkin' into a song.

Whiskey And Tear is the debut album from Blackie Jackett Jr., a new band consisting of Finger 11 guitarists James Black and Rick Jackett.

But as they explored the maligned genre more, they began to appreciate the craft of songwriters like Townes Van Zandt, John Prine, the Merles (Travis and Haggard) and the Hanks (Snow and Williams).

Jackett and Black's songs got more serious, more heartfelt. They recorded as they wrote, letting the tapes roll in hotel rooms, home studios, at friendly get-togethers and, yes, even on the bus.

"A lot of it was on tour, either late at night or early in the morning," says Jackett, a Burlington native now living in Toronto. "We'd wake up with a somewhat nasty hangover, find a corner somewhere dark and play some songs."

Jackett and Black's country routine was limited to band parties and quiet moments with friends. That changed a few months back, when a member of the Finger 11 management quietly passed the Blackie Jackett Jr. recordings to the band's record company.

Black and Jackett then got a call saying the label wanted to release it. They were shocked.

"We had no intention of releasing it, no intention of becoming a band," Jackett says. "For the longest of time, it was just sort of a secret."

To add weight to the music, they picked up a drummer and a bass player. Jackett even bought a six-string banjo. They started looking for a female vocalist to counter Black's near baritone. Like everything else in this project, they found their backing vocalist while having a few drinks.

It was karaoke night at Hurricane's Roadhouse on Bloor Street. A young woman took the microphone and sang a Dolly Parton tune. Her name was Sandra D. Jackett and Black almost spit out their drinks, she was so good. She's been singing with them ever since.

The band has been playing at small clubs in southern Ontario in between songwriting sessions with the bigger band in preparation for the next Finger 11 album.

Don't expect to hear Blackie Jackett Jr. Playing Paralyzer, though.

"I think if you went to a Blackie Jackett show expecting to hear Finger 11 songs, you'd be sadly disappointed.

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We all scream for ... maple bacon crunch?

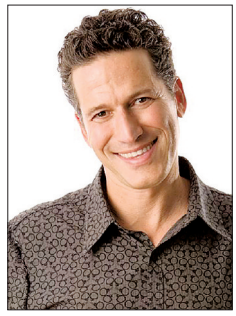
Bob Blumer wins ice cream contest with an eclectic, Canuck-themed concoction

Celebrity food enthusiast Bob Blumer says his Canadian palate helped him take top honours at a recent ice cream making contest in Austin, Tex. His winning flavour? Maple bacon crunch.

"I think it's the first time anyone who doesn't live in Austin won the prize," the Montreal-born, Los Angeles-based gourmet said Friday during a stop in the city. "It was a bit of an upset."

Blumer filmed the ice cream contest last week for his TV series, Glutton for Punishment, in which he takes on wacky and sometimes dangerous food-related challenges.

The episode will be part of Season 4, set to air at the beginning of next year on Food Network Canada.


Bob Blumer, host of Glutton for Punishment on Food Network Canada, is a Montreal-born celebrity cook.

Blumer said it was the first time he'd ever made ice cream, aside from an experimental version he once created with a salad spinner and a plastic bag on his previous TV show, Surreal Gourmet.

While bacon and ice cream is a rather unusual combination, it was a hit with taste testers in a pre-contest poll, he said.

The adventurous foodie had candied the bacon the night before the showdown at the Austin Ice Cream Festival.

But when he awoke in the morning, it was chewy due to a heat wave in Austin.

"I had this crazy idea at the last second to make a bacon brittle," Blumer said in an interview, noting he folded the chopped bacon into a pot of melted sugar.

The process of how sugar breaks down in food will be one of the topics at Blumer's Food Science — Unearthed showcase at the science centre.

"I had this crazy idea at the last second to make a bacon brittle."
Bob Blumer

As Blumer cooks, food scientists and dietitians will provide a molecular breakdown of his meals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Box office

Following are the top 10 films at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning Aug. 21:

1. **Inglourious Basterds:** $37.6 million US
2. **District 9:** $18.9 million
3. **G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra:** $12.5 million
4. **The Time Traveler's Wife:** $10 million
5. **Julie & Julia** $9 million
6. **Shorts:** $6.6 million
7. **G-Force:** $4.2 million
8. **Harry Potter:** $3.5 million
9. **The Ugly Truth:** $2.9 million
10. **Post Grad:** $2.8 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pulp Fiction writer guilty in DUI case

FILM The Oscar-winning screenwriter of Pulp Fiction has pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter and drunken driving for a crash that killed a passenger in his Mercedes. Roger Avary of Ojai, Calif., entered the pleas in a Ventura court. He'll be sentenced next month and remains free on bail.

Jackson's burial is delayed until Sept. 3

SPECTACLE Michael Jackson won't be laid to rest on what would have been his 51st birthday after all. A Jackson family spokesman says the King of Pop's funeral has been postponed until Sept. 3, five days after the singer's birthday. Spokesman Ken Sunshine offered no reason for the delay.

Tanner admits he sold Social Security numbers

TELEVISION One Tree Hill actor Antwon Tanner has pleaded guilty to selling more than a dozen Social Security numbers for $10,000 US. He's expected to get as much as a year in prison at his Nov. 20 sentencing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
8/24/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Time Team		Diamond Road		Midsomer Murders		Auschwitz:Nazi-Final Solution		Diamond Road
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV PA)		Lie to Me "Undercover"		Brothers & Sisters (N)		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere Il	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Little Mosque	Sophie (HDTV)	Comedy Fest.	Comedy Fest	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Dating in the Dark		Dating in the Dark (N)		(10:01) Murdoch Mysteries		News
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Law & Order "Bailout"		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	How I Met	The Soup	Greatest Myst.	Final 24		News/Eleven
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama été	Météo	Rebut global	Villages	*Regarde les hommes tomber* (1994, Drame policier)				Météo
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Search-Buddha
	213	326	15 SUN	Stargate SG-1		One Tree Hill (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Dateline NBC		Hitchcock Pres
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	How I Met	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Great American Road Trip (N)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Dateline NBC		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dating in the Dark		Dating in the Dark (N)		(10:01) Castle (HDTV)		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Two/Half Men	Gary Unmarr	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		A News
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV PA)		Lie to Me "Undercover"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow		History Detectives (N)		American Masters		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Our World	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Inside the Meltdown		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		Fastest Growing Companies		Inside Track: NASCAR		American Originals: Budweiser		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	PartyPoker.com		FullTiltPoker.net		UFC 102: Countdown		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	MLB Baseball Tampa Bay Rays at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58 OLN	Ghost Hunters		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25 YTV	The Next Star 2		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	The Next Star 2		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards of Waverly Place (N)		Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Style by Jury	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It		*Circle of Friends* (2006, Suspense) Julie Benz.		
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		So You Think You Can Dance Canada				So You Think You Can Dance Canada		
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Payback"		Intervention "Casie"		Intervention "Gloria" (N)		Hoarders (HDTV) (N)		Paranormal
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L'Ispettore Giusti				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Brooke Knows	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Dedicated "Josie Dye"		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Greatest
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	*Lost in the Dark* (2007, Suspense) Mae Whitman.				House
	620	523	40 BVO	Wireframe		Shumka's Cinderella		Romantic Portrait Yundi Li		Mozart Decoded		Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Newlywed	Nearly Dead	Nearly Dead	Newlywed	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "In the Zone"		Tank Overhaul		Victory 1945 (Part 2 of 2)		NCIS "In the Zone"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Comedy Now	The Simpsons	South Park	Dane Cook Vicious Circle		
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Marriage	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Mississippi Burning* ★★★ (1988, Drama) Gene Hackman, Willem Dafoe.				
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Waiting to Exhale* ★★★ (1995, Comedy-Drama) Whitney Houston.					Tiny & Toya	W. Williams
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Locusts: The 8th Plague* (2005, Science Fiction)				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	MTV Cribs	After	MTV News	Cribs	16 and Pregnant		16 and Pregnant		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Once a Thief		Carlawood	Prod. Parker	Ground Up		Prod. Parker	Prod. Parker	Prod. Parker
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Chuck-Day Off	Food Jammers	Glutton-Punish.	Food Detective	Get on Plate	At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Green Grass	Summer Wine	Past Life Investigation		Mystic Women		Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Canada's Next Top Model		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Les Gags	Sketch Show	Le Petit Monde	Km/h (SC)	Monk "Monk en cavale" (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Vengeance*
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted		The Closer		Capturing a Short Life		Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	Stargate Atlantis		Sanctuary "Folding Man"		Durham County		Nurse Jackie	Penn & Teller	Dexter
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:10) *The Pathfinder* ★★ (1996, Historical Drama)				*Last Tango in Paris* ★★★ (1973, Drama) Marlon Brando.				*Black Pearls*

critics'corner

Last Tango in Paris
Yeah, yeah, we know. It's a classic. It's also disturbing, depressing and occasionally just plain icky. Marlon Brando didn't look half bad naked, for a guy pushing 50 at the time. But that doesn't make his grieving widower character's torrid affair with a much-younger Frenchwoman Jeanne (Maria Schneider) any easier to watch. It starts with him raping her, for heaven's sake. This just might be one of those stories that would be easier to read in novel form than watch on-screen. And did we mention the downer ending? 9 PM on PIX

Law & Order: Criminal Intent
When funding for his poetry journal is threatened to be cut egocentric poet Jacob Garrity (guest star Will Chase) asks his lover to try to change the mind of the foundation's president (guest star Sheldon Kunkle), but when the lover winds up dead, Nichols and Wheeler (Jeff Goldblum, Julianne Nicholson) discover the deadly passion behind the arts. Eric Bogosian also stars in "Passion." 9 PM on CTV, NBC

Happy birthday to Brody
Talk about a birthday present. Hills star Brody Jenner spent his 26th birthday in Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Center having his appendix removed, a source tells usmagazine.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Lindsay's L.A. home burgled

CLOSE CALL Lindsay Lohan arrived at her Hollywood Hills home early Sunday to find her house had apparently been robbed, her mother, Dina Lohan, confirms to People magazine.

"The safe was ripped out of the wall, and the door was off the hinges and door handles removed," Dina said. "Bags, shoes and jewelry were taken, too. Thank God she wasn't home."

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Khloe and Terrence 'just friends'

DOWNPLAYING RUMOURS Khloe Kardashian's radio co-host on E!'s Kourtney and Khloe Take Miami claims he doesn't even remember the steamy kiss he shared with the reality star, people.com reports.

"We are just friends," Terrence J told People. "Neither one of us remembers the kiss."

It's a forgotten moment for the host of BET's highly-rated music video show 106 & Park and co-host of Khloe After Dark, who says he's in a relationship and he is "very much in love."

Talking it over with Kardashian he said, "We were trying to remember who kissed whom first and we have both agreed to agree that it was just a long night where we both had some drinks and shared a good time."

On Kardashian's sister Kourtney's baby news Terrence J noted: "The shows depict her and Scott (Disick) always having conflict but what you don't see is that he is always cuddling Kourtney. Scott really loves her. I didn't know she was pregnant when we were filming. I am really excited for both of them. I am also excited to buy them baby clothes."

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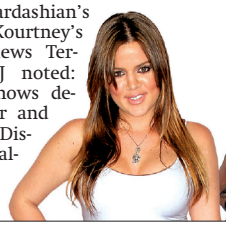


LeAnn involved in hit-and-run?

BRUSH WITH THE LAW LAPD officers questioned LeAnn Rimes Thursday night about a misdemeanour hit and run, a police spokeswoman confirms to usmagazine.com.

The accident happened "between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. in the West Los Angeles area," said Officer Norma Eisenman, who confirmed a report by the Los Angeles Times that Rimes was questioned at her home.

No other details — including if anyone was injured — are available. "It's an ongoing investigation," she added.

A rep for Rimes tells Us: "There was a routine police investigation into this incident, and a police report was filed. We are confident that this matter will be resolved shortly and LeAnn will be cleared."

Earlier that afternoon, Rimes debuted her relationship with Eddie Cibrian, usmagazine.com reports. The couple went golfing in Valencia, Calif.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No mat wear for model Heidi

PREGNANT AND VAIN Heidi Klum won't wear maternity clothes, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel — who is seven months pregnant with her fourth child — says her role as host of Project Runway means she always has to look fashionable so she opts to buy larger sizes of her favourite designer collections to cover her expanding tummy.

"My stylist tries to find things that are not maternity clothes, so I've been wearing a lot from The Row, by Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. I love their clothes. Marc Jacobs too," she said. "You just buy things in a size 10 — when you're doing a show on fashion, you still have to bring it on."

Klum's fellow Victoria's Secret model Adriana Lima is also pregnant, as are the company's former faces Gisele Bündchen and Karolina Kurkova. Klum revealed her friends have been asking her for advice on motherhood.

"It's so funny! We must have been with each other for so long now that our cycles and egg-dropping must have happened at the same time," she said. "Adriana has asked me a few things about nannies and how the birth is. It's hard to explain and you just have to kind of figure it out." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Miley a-Twitter about co-star

NEW FLING? It looks like co-stars Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth are more than just friends, people.com reports.

Last Wednesday, as Cyrus bid the actor goodbye at the Nashville airport, the two kissed — and were "full-on making out," said Alex Emanuel, an actor who was a few feet away from the couple and witnessed Cyrus, 16, act "as giddy as a schoolgirl."

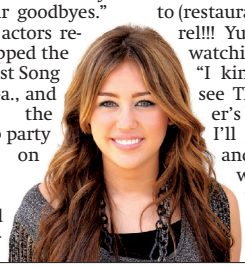
As Hemsworth headed for the terminal doors, "she jumped into his arms and threw her arms around his neck and kissed him and leaned back and he was dipping her," said Emanuel. "It was like a scene out of an old movie where the guy's getting on a train and they're saying their goodbyes."

The two actors recently wrapped the film The Last Song in Tybee, Ga., and attended the film's wrap party together on Aug. 16.

Cyrus maintained her her single status, tweeting "I do not have a boyfriend."

But she's apparently been spending time with Hemsworth: "@mommytish and @auntedi and I are introducing the aussie to (restaurant) cracker barrel!!! Yummyyy :)" and watching TV together: "I kinda want to go see The Time Traveler's Wife but I think I'll just sit around and eat sushi and watch Liar Liar with Liam."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Megan tries hand at comedy on SNL

NOT JUST A PRETTY FACE Transformer star Megan Fox will host the season-opening episode of Saturday Night Live Sept. 26, sources tell Life & Style.

"This is the perfect opportunity for her to show off her comedic skills," a source said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GaGa for Brit boy bands

IN HER DREAMS Pop singer Lady GaGa has a very specific sexual fantasy, and it involves aging British boy band Take That.

"They're very sexy. I'm a single girl now and I love to have a good time," GaGa said, according to Showbiz Spy. "I'd like all four at once," she admitted, leaving out original member Robbie Williams, who's sat out all reunion attempts.

As for looking for love, GaGa admits she's looking to keep it simple. "I'm not looking for anyone. I just sleep with the guys in my band all the time because it's easier."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Adam's fans behaving badly in concert

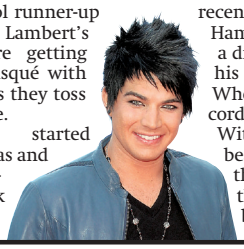
CROSSING THE LINE American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert's fans are getting more risqué with the gifts they toss on stage.

What started with bras and glow-in-the-dark handcuffs reached a new level recently when a fan in Hamilton, Ont., threw a dildo onstage during his performance of Whole Lotta Love, according to Showbiz Spy.

Without missing a beat, Lambert kicked the sex toy back into the audience. Lambert previously told Entertainment Weekly that he doesn't mind the attention: "It's really getting creative. It's exciting. I think they really want me to play with these toys during the number."

But he admits he's been trying to ignore the gifts because he "didn't want to condone the behaviour."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Wednesday Showers 40% 25° / 14°

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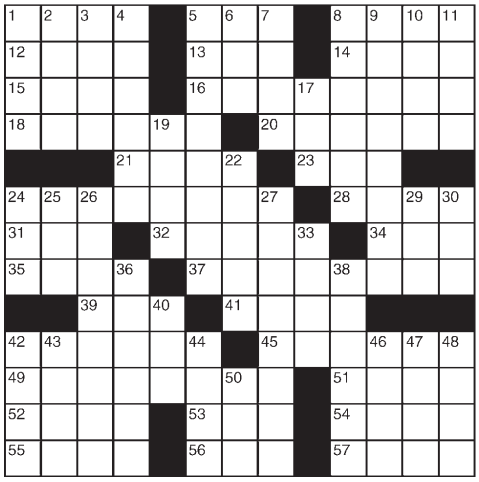


ACROSS

1 Relinquish
5 High tennis shot
8 Prickly heat symptom
12 Mimicry specialist
13 Rage
14 Pop flavour
15 Caboose's place
16 Erupt
18 Change the title
20 Groups of lions
21 Body powder
23 Slithery fish
24 Escape
28 Clarinet insert
31 Family
32 Blackbird type
34 Rowing need
35 Young Frankenstein role
37 Put your two cents in
39 — League
41 Use a teaspoon
42 — Sea, arm of the Mediterranean
45 Citrus fruit
49 Panic
51 Eccentric
52 Lower extremities
53 College transcript no.
54 Shrek is one
55 Bygone times
56 Bando of baseball
57 Troubles

DOWN

1 Singer Vikki
2 Duel tool
3 University bigwig
4 Mistakes in print
5 Defamatory
6 Bobby of hockey
7 Road Runner's sound
8 More gross
9 "Bye"
10 Hint
11 Chapeaus
17 Exist
19 Shark variety
22 Points
24 Go slaloming
25 Diary writer Anais
26 Train driver
27 Shun liquor
29 Water, in Paris
30 The 5,000 Fingers of —
33 Den
36 Fly a plane
38 City in Poland
40 Tibetan critter
42 Doubtful
43 Sandwich cookie
44 Eggy drinks
46 "Forget it," at NASA
47 Bullfight injury
48 — out (supplements)
50 — Lazy River

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

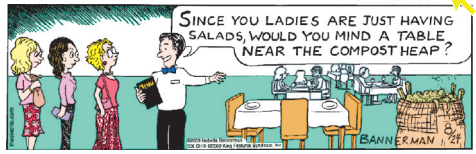
4		2				9		1
	5		4		6		2	
1			2		9			6
		7	3		8	4		
		6	7		1	8		
3			8		4			7
	1		6		3		5	
6		5				3		4

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

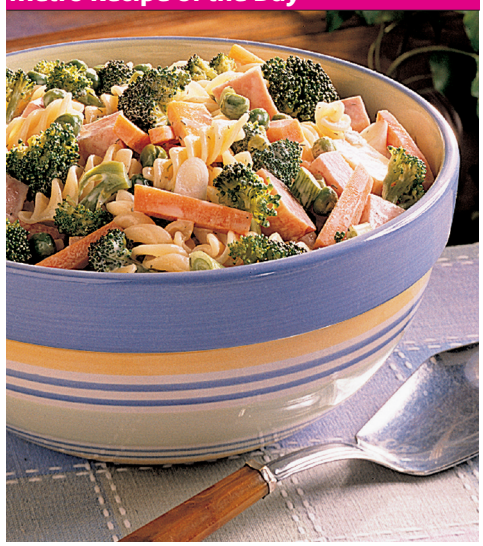
1	6	4	2	9	8	7	5	3
8	9	5	3	4	7	2	1	6
7	3	2	6	1	5	9	8	4
5	8	3	1	7	6	4	2	9
2	1	9	4	8	3	6	7	5
6	4	7	5	2	9	8	3	1
4	5	6	7	3	2	1	9	8
9	7	1	8	5	4	3	6	2
3	2	8	9	6	1	5	4	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Vegetable Pasta Salad

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups (500 ml) broccoli florets
4 cups (1 l) cooked spiral pasta
2 medium carrots, julienned
1/2 cup (125 ml) frozen peas, thawed
1/2 cup (125 ml) cubed fully cooked ham
1/2 cup (125 ml) cubed cheddar cheese
1/3 cup sliced green onions

DRESSING:

3/4 cup (175 ml) mayonnaise
2 tbsp (25 ml) cider vinegar
1 tbsp (15 ml) Dijon mustard
1 garlic clove, minced
1 tsp (5 ml) dill weed
1/4 tsp (1 ml) pepper

METHOD:

1. Place 1 in. (2.5 cm) water in small pot; add broccoli. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 2-3 minutes. Rinse in cold water and drain.
2. In large bowl, combine broccoli, pasta, carrots, peas, ham, cheese and onions. In another bowl, combine dressing ingredients. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour.

SERVES 10

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
If you have faith in who you are and what you do there's almost nothing you cannot accomplish this week. You're an Aries — you were born to succeed.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You should be full of life and raring to go this week, and if that does not describe you perfectly, don't worry, it will do very soon.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
The most important thing today is that you don't jump to conclusions, because there is a real possibility you could be wrong.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you start the day in a mad rush to get things done chances are you will end the day even further behind than when you started.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Some things are flexible, some are fixed, and you need to be able to tell them apart. That may not be easy this week, so keep your eyes and ears open.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Keep your thoughts and ideas simple today: If you complicate things you'll likely regret it later. Also, refuse to get involved in someone's personal issues.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The whole world may be against you, but if that little voice inside your head says you are doing the right thing then just keep on doing it.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
The cosmic setup brings friendship to the fore and makes you want to visit places you've never been. Put them together and take a vacation with friends.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If something isn't working out the way you planned then you must face up to that fact and take remedial action. There is still time to turn things around.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You desperately need a change of scene and with the sun now transiting the most adventurous area of your chart there are no excuses for staying put.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Believe it or not your life is getting better by the day, the hour, even the minute, and what happens between now and the end of the week will prove it.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There's a chance you'll take what someone tells you completely the wrong way, and the results could be embarrassing — so don't overreact.

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